

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Lleoliad:
Ystafell Bwyllgora 1 – Y Senedd

Dyddiad:
Dydd Mawrth, 2 Hydref 2012

Amser:
09:00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



I gael rhagor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch a:

Abigail Phillips
Clerc y Pwyllgor
029 2089 8421
deisebau@cymru.gov.uk

Agenda

- 1. Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau a dirprwyon 09:00 – 09:00**
- 2. Deisebau newydd 09:00 – 09:40**
 - 2.1 P-04-409 Enwau Cymraeg i bob cefnffordd newydd yng Nghymru (Tudalen 1)
 - 2.2 P-04-410 Cofeb Barhaol i Weithwyr Cymru (Tudalen 2)
 - 2.3 P-04-411 Deiseb yn Erbyn Parthau Cadwraeth Morol yn Sir Benfro (Tudalen 3)
 - 2.4 P-04-412 Galw i Addoli ar y cyd gael ei Ddiddymu (Tudalen 4)
 - 2.5 P-04-413 Gwasanaethau Mamolaeth yng Nghwm Cynon (Tudalen 5)
 - 2.6 P-04-414 Swyddi Cymreig (Tudalen 6)
 - 2.7 P-04-415 Cefnogaeth am Bennu Parthau Cadwraeth Morol Lefel Gwarchodaeth Uchel (Tudalen 7)
 - 2.8 P-04-416 Gwasanaethau Rheilffyrdd Gogledd-De (Tudalen 8)
 - 2.9 P-04-417 Achubwch Draeth Morfa ac ataliwch Lwybrau Troed Cyhoeddus 92 a 93 rhag cau (Tudalen 9)
 - 2.10 P-04-418 Enwi'r A470 yn 'Brif Ffordd Tywysog Owain Glyndwr' (Tudalen 10)
 - 2.11 P-04-419 Moratoriwm ar Ddatblygu Ffermydd Gwynt (Tudalen 11)

- 2.12 P-04-420 Adeiladu Cofeb i Owain Glyndŵr (Tudalen 12)
- 2.13 P-04-421 Rhwystro Trident rhag dod i Gymru (Tudalen 13)
- 2.14 P-04-422 Ffracio (Tudalen 14)
- 2.15 P-04-423 Cartref Nyrsio Brooklands (Tudalen 15)
- 2.16 P-04-424 Cadw gwasanaethau yn Ysbyty Castell-nedd Port Talbot (Tudalen 16)
- 2.17 P-04-425 Tîm Cymru (Tudalen 17)

3. Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am ddeisebau blaenorol 09:40 – 11:00

Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

- 3.1 P-03-144 Cŵn Tywys y Deillion – lle sy'n cael ei rannu (Tudalennau 18 – 41)
- 3.2 P-04-391 Ffordd osgoi Llandeilo (Tudalennau 42 – 46)

Bydd y tair eitem a ganlyn yn cael eu trafod ar y cyd

- 3.3 P-04-361 Pas bws am ddim i fyfyrwyr o dan 25 oed sydd mewn addysg llawn amser (Tudalen 47)
- 3.4 P-04-371 Tocynnau teithio rhatach ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus i bob plentyn hyd at 18 oed (Tudalen 48)
- 3.5 P-04-382 Costau teithio i fyfyrwyr ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus (Tudalennau 49 – 57)
- 3.6 P-04-393 Grŵp Gweithredu Ffordd Osgoi Llanymynech a Phant (Tudalennau 58 – 61)

Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

- 3.7 P-04-366 Cau canolfan ddydd Aberystwyth (Tudalennau 62 – 75)

Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth

- 3.8 P-03-263 Rhestru Parc y Strade (Tudalennau 76 – 79)
- 3.9 P-04-322 Galw am ryddhau gafael Cadw ar eglwysi (Tudalennau 80 – 81)
- 3.10 P-04-381 Adfer Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru (Tudalennau 82 – 86)
- 3.11 P-04-407 Achub Llety Gwarchod Kennard Court ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn (Tudalennau 87 – 94)

Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy

- 3.12 P-04-378 Ymestyn Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Gŵyr (Tudalennau 95 – 98)
- 3.13 P-04-324 Dywedwch Na i Tan 8 – Mae ffermydd gwynt a llinellau pŵer foltedd uchel yn difetha ein cymuned (Tudalennau 99 – 101)
- 3.14 P-04-383 Yn erbyn dynodiad Parth Perygl Nitradau ar gyfer Llyn Llangors (Tudalennau 102 – 111)
- 3.15 P-04-390 Dynodi Gwarchodfa Natur Penrhos Caergybi (parc arfordir) yn Warchodfa Natur Genedlaethol (Tudalennau 112 – 115)
- 3.16 P-04-399 Arferion lladd anifeiliaid (Tudalennau 116 – 117)
- 3.17 P-04-406 Yn erbyn Safle yng Ngogledd Cymru yn y Cynllun Parthau Cadwraeth Morol (Tudalennau 118 – 119)

4. Papurau i'w nodi

- 4.1 P-03-221 Gwell triniaeth traed drwy'r GIG (Tudalen 120)
- 4.2 P-04-401 Y Gymraeg yn ein Cynulliad ni (Tudalennau 121 – 122)

Eitem 2.1

P-04-409 : Enwau Cymraeg i bob cefnffordd newydd yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod pob cefnffordd newydd yng Nghymru yn cael enwau Cymraeg. Nid yn unig y bydd hyn yn helpu i gadw hunaniaeth ein dinasoedd, trefi a phentrefi, ond bydd yn helpu pobl nad ydynt yn siarad Cymraeg i ddysgu ynganu a sillafu geiriau syml Cymraeg.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Stuart Evans

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: . 47

Eitem 2.2

P-04-410 : Cofeb Barhaol i Weithwyr Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ariannu, naill ai'n uniongyrchol neu drwy Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru, gofeb barhaol i weithwyr'.

Bu farw un ar ddeg o bobl wrth eu gwaith y llynedd yng Nghymru. Mae marw ac anafiadau'n amlwg iawn yn hanes Cymru. Roedd y trychineb ym mhwl Gleision y llynedd yn ein hatgoffa o erchyllterau'r gorffennol. Ac eto, er gwaethaf y ffordd mae marwolaethau gweithwyr wedi llunio gorffennol Cymru, ac yn parhau hyd yn oed heddiw, ychydig iawn sydd i ddangos ein bod yn cofio amdanynt. Nododd rhai undebau llafur Ddiwrnod Rhyngwladol Cofio Gweithwyr drwy gynnal raliau, ac yn y blaen, ond diwrnod yn unig oedd hwnnw, a ddaeth i ben ac a anghofwyd yn fuan. Mae'n sicr yn bryd cael cofeb barhaol er cof am holl weithwyr Cymru. Mae cofebau ar safle rhai o drychinebau'r gorffennol, fel Senghennydd a Gresfordd, ond nid oes dim i nodi bywydau nifer o weithwyr eraill a fu farw wrth eu gwaith. Byddai cofeb barhaol i weithwyr yn dangos ein parch at yr holl weithwyr hyn, a byddai hefyd yn llesol ein hatgoffa o bwysigrwydd iechyd a diogelwch, sy'n cael eu difrio'n gyffredinol.

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Mae'n bum mlynedd eleni ers cael Deddf Dynladdiad Corfforaethol 2007 – byddai'n braf iawn gweld Llywodraeth Cymru'n cyhoeddi eleni ei bod am sefydlu cofeb barhaol i'w datgelu yn 2014, sef 40 mlynedd ers cael y Ddeddf Iechyd a Diogelwch yn y Gwaith. Elusen annibynnol yw Sefydliad Bevan (rhif 104191) sy'n ymwneud â chyfiawnder cymdeithasol yng Nghymru. Rydym yn newid Cymru drwy waith ymchwil a dadlau yn ein cyhoeddiadau a'n digwyddiadau. I gael rhagor o wybodaeth, ewch i www.bevanfoundation.org

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Bevan Foundation

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: . 23

Eitem 2.3

P-04-411 : Deiseb yn Erbyn Parthau Cadwraeth Morol yn Sir Benfro

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Galwaf ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau nad yw'r tri Pharth Cadwraeth Morol Gwarchoddedig lawn arfaethedig yn sir Benfro yn cael eu dynodi'n barthau lle na chaniateir pysgota i ddiwydiant pysgota y glannau.

Credaf fod y penderfyniad anghywir wedi'i wneud wrth gynllunio i ddynodi statws Parth Cadwraeth Morol Gwarchoddedig lawn yn unig, gan wahardd pob gweithgaredd alldynol; ymddengys fod y penderfyniad hwn yn un gwleidyddol yn hytrach na'n un gwyddonol, sy'n rhan allweddol o'r broses Parthau Cadwraeth Morol.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Stephen De-Waine

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: . 586

Eitem 2.4

P-04-412 : Galw i Addoli ar y cyd gael ei Ddiddymu Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ddiddymu addoli ar y cyd mewn ysgolion yng Nghymru

Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n ofynnol yn ôl y gyfraith bod pob ysgol yn cynnal gweithred o addoli ar y cyd bob dydd. Hyd yn oed mewn ysgolion nad ydynt yn ysgolion 'ffydd', rhaid i'r weithred hon fod yn Gristnogol ei natur yn fras. Mewn cymdeithas sy'n fwyfwy amrywiol, mae hyn yn sarhad ar hawliau pobl ifanc i fod yn rhydd i fynegi eu credoau. Er bod modd i bobl ifanc gael eu heithrio o'r weithred, mae hyn yn ddibynnol ar gael caniatâd gan eu rhieni, ac nid yw pob ysgol yn parchu'r opsiwn hwn. Mae'r gyfraith hon yn hynod o amhoblogaidd, gyda pholau piniwn yn dangos nad yw athrawon, rhieni a phlant eisiau ei chadw. Mae'n hen bryd, felly, bod ymgynulliad cynhwysol yn disodli'r weithred ddyddiol o addoli ar y cyd, er mwyn hyrwyddo cydlyniant ac ymdeimlad o gymuned mewn ysgolion. Rydym yn galw ar y Llywodraeth i ddiddymu'r gofyniad i addoli ar y cyd sy'n orfodol mewn ysgolion ac i annog ysgolion i gynnal ymgynulliadau addysgiadol a fydd yn cynnwys pob plentyn, beth bynnag fo'i grefydd neu'i gred.**Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan:** Stephen De-Waine

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: . 828

Eitem 2.5

P-04-413 : Gwasanaethau Mamolaeth yng Nghwm Cynon

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni sydd wedi llofnodi isod yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i adfer gwasanaethau mamolaeth yng Nghwm Cynon, drwy gwblhau canolfan eni Tair Afon, fel y'i cynlluniwyd yn wreiddiol yn Ysbyty Cwm Cynon.

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Cafodd Ysbyty Cwm Cynon ei gynllunio gyda lle i ganolfan eni dan arweiniad bydwragedd. Er bod y lle ar gael yn yr ysbyty a bod llawer o'r gwaith wedi'i gwblhau, gwnaed y penderfyniad i beidio â chael y ganolfan eni. O ganlyniad i hyn, rhaid i fenywod Cwm Cynon deithio i Ysbyty'r Tywysog Siarl ym Merthyr Tudful neu ddewis geni eu plant gartref. Mae tynnu'r gwasanaethau hyn oddi ar bobl Cwm Cynon yn annerbyniol.

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 406

P-04-414 : Swyddi Cymreig

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gymell cyflogwyr sy'n adleoli i Gymru, neu'n agor cyfleusterau a marchnadoedd yma, i recriwtio staff lleol a'u hyfforddi pan fo angen gwneud hynny.

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Mae enghreifftiau o bob cwr o Gymru o swyddi newydd yn cael eu cymryd gan weithluoedd o'r tu allan i Gymru – gweithluoedd cyfan mewn rhai achosion. Gallai cytuno ar ddiffiniad o 'weithiwr allweddol' helpu i osgoi sefyllfaoedd fel hyn. Dylid ei gyfyngu i swyddi arbenigol pan nad yw'r sgiliau neu'r cymwysterau gofynnol ar gael yn lleol a phan na allai pobl leol eu hennill yn ystod cyfnod byr o hyfforddiant. Fel arall, mae'n gamarweiniol, ar y gorau, bod gwleidyddion, y cyfryngau ac eraill yn cyhoeddi 'swyddi newydd', pan fo pobl Cymru yn cael eu hamddifadu o'r swyddi hynny, i bob pwrpas.

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Prif ddeisebydd: Royston Jones

Nifer y llofnodion: 65

Eitem 2.7

P-04-415 : Cefnogaeth am bennu Parthau Cadwraeth Morol Lefel Gwarchodaeth Uchel

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn cefnogi polisi Llywodraeth Cymru i bennu Parthau Cadwraeth Morol lefel gwarchodaeth uchel ac yn annog y Llywodraeth i lynnu at y polisi hwnnw. Nodwn y beichiau sydd ar ein moroedd, methiant Cymru i gyrraedd ei thargedau bioamrywiaeth ar gyfer 2010 a'r dystiolaeth wyddonol gadarn sy'n profi'r angen am fesurau cadwraeth morol llawer gwell. Rydym yn cydnabod y dystiolaeth fyd-eang gryf sy'n dangos y buddion o gael ardaloedd gwarchodaeth morol lefel uchel ac yn rhagweld y bydd Cymru yn gweld cymariaethau tebyg ar ôl pennu Parthau Cadwraeth Morol lefel gwarchodaeth uchel. Yn benodol, gofynnwn i Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru gefnogi'r alwad i ailddynodi Gwarchodfa Natur Forol Skomer, sef unig warchodfa natur forol Cymru, sydd heb lawer o warchodaeth ar hyn o bryd, yn ardal â lefel gwarchodadeth uchel pan ddaw'n Barth Cadwraeth Morol pan ddaw darpariaethau Parthau Cadwraeth Morol Deddf y Môr a Mynediad i'r Arfordir i rym yng Nghymru.

Does yr un man yn nyfroedd Cymru sydd wedi'i ddiogelu'n llawn rhag effeithiau uniongyrchol y fod ddynol. Mae angen Parthau Cadwraeth Morol lefel gwarchodaeth uchel arnom i: ddarparu rhywle i fywyd gwylt morol fodoli a ffynnu heb i ni ymyrryd arnynt - rydyn ni'n gwneud hyn ar y tir, felly ni ddylid cael safonau is ar gyfer y môr; galluogi ecosystemau i ailsefydlu ar ôl effeithiau uniongyrchol y fod ddynol a gwella eu hydwythedd; diogelu'r ecosystem forol er mwyn yr holl nwyddau a gwasanaethau mae'n eu darparu i ni ac na allwn oroesi hebddynt; ein helpu i ddeall effeithiau pwysau'r fod ddynol ar amgylchedd y môr a dod i ddeall sut beth yw ecosystem forol sydd heb ei heffeithio arni gennym ni. Pwrpas Parthau Cadwraeth Morol lefel gwarchodaeth uchel yw diogelu a gwella'r ecosystemau sydd o fewn iddynt, nid diogelu poblogaethau pysgod a physgod cregyn yn unig.

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Prif ddeisebydd: Blaise Bullimore

Nifer y llofnodion: 298

P-04-416: Gwasanaethau Rheilffordd Gogledd-De

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i weithio gyda Trenau Arriva i gynyddu nifer y gwasanaethau rheilffordd cyflym uniongyrchol rhwng Caerdybi a Chaerdydd.

Ysytyriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Prif ddeisebydd: Neil Taylor

Nifer y llofnodion: 19

Eitem 2.9

P-04-417: Achubwch Draeth Morfa ac ataliwch Lwybrau Troed Cyhoeddus 92 a 93 rhag cau

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Darn o'r morlin rhwng Gwaith Dur Port Talbot a Thraeth Sgêr yw Traeth Morfa, gerllaw Gwarchodfa Natur Cynffig . Dim ond ar droed neu ar feic y mae'n bosibl cael mynediad i'r traeth, felly mae wedi dod yn fan gwerthfawr o heddwch a thawelwch. Yn 2011 ffurfiwyd y grŵp cymunedol , â€œSave Morfa Beach (Friends of Morfa) â€ mewn ymateb i fygythiad drwy Waith Dur TATA a oedd yn ceisio atal mynediad i'r traeth. Mae hyn yn cynnwys cau dau lwybr troed cyhoeddus o arwyddocâd hanesyddol sy'n cael llawer o ddefnydd ac sy'n arwain i'r traeth: Llwybr troed 92 o Longlandâ€™s Lane ym Margam a Llwybr Troed 93 o Warchodfa Natur Cynffig. Mae'r DEISEBWYR yn cefnogi ymgyrch sefydliad Save Morfa Beach (Friends of Morfa) i ddiogelu'r hawliau tramwy ar hyd llwybrau troed 92 a 93 a chadw'r mynediad i Draeth Morfa. Rydym yn gofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru a Chyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot gynnal a chadw'r holl hawliau tramwy ar Margam Burrows, ac ymgysylltu â Tata Steel er mwyn sicrhau bod mynediad cyhoeddus i'r traeth yn parhau.

Gwybodaeth ategol: Pa un ai a yw hawliau tramwy'n croesi tir preifat neu dir cyhoeddus, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd Port Talbot a Chynulliad Cymru sy'n gyfrifol yn y pen draw am sicrhau eu bod yn cael eu gwarchod, eu bod ar gael a'u bod yn addas i'r diben. Rydym felly'n llobio, ond fel sefydliad nid ydym yn wleidyddol . Cafodd Grŵp ei greu ar Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/SaveMorfaBeach/) fel proffil cyhoeddus y sefydliad.

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Prif ddeisebydd: Save Morfa Beach (Friends of Morfa)

Nifer y llofnodion: 1191

P-04-418: Enwi'r A470 yn 'Brif Ffordd Tywysog Owain Glyndwr'

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cenedlaethol Cymru i enwi'r A470, yn ei chyfanrwydd, yn Brif Ffordd Tywysog Owain Glyndwr er cof am ymgyrch enfawr a hir yr arwr cenedlaethol mawr yma a'i chyd gymry dewr i ad-ennill annibyniaeth i Gymru.

Gwybodaeth ategol: GwyMae'r A470 yn ffordd gefnol sy'n rhedeg o Gaerdydd yn De Cymru i Landudno yn y Gogledd. Bu I Llysgenhadaeth Glyndwr lansio ymgyrch yn y flwyddyn 2000 i enwi'r ffordd yn 'Brif Ffordd Owain Glyndwr fel coff teilwng i'n harwr cenedlaethol mwyaf ar achlysur 600mlwyddiant cychwyniad ei Rhyfel Mawr am Annibyniaeth 1400 - 1421. Bu i'r Cynulliad Cymreig anwybyddu'r apêl yn y flwyddyn 2000 ond nawr, gan fod yna alw o gyfeiriad arall i ran o'r ffordd gael ei alw yn 'Y Royal Welsh Way' fel cydnabyddiaeth o'r Catrawd Brenhinol sy'n talu llw o deyrngarwch i Frenhiniaeth a Threfn Loegr sy'n parhau i feddiannu Cymru, mae Llysgenhadaeth Glyndwr wedi penderfynu ail gychwyn yr ymgyrch a lansiwyd gennym yn y flwyddyn 2000 gyda'r ddeiseb arfaethedig yma.

Prif ddeisebydd: Sian Ifan

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 111

Eitem 2.11

P-04-419 : Moratoriwm ar Ddatblygu Ffermydd Gwynt

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Galwn ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i ofyn i Lywodraeth Cymru am foratoriwm ar ddatblygu ffermydd gwynt a thyrbinau gwynt y mae ganddi gyfrifoldeb datganoledig drostynt. Bydd y moratoriwm yn gyfnod o fyfyrto, a bydd pwyllgor trawsbleidiol yn cael ei gynnull yn yr amser hwn i archwilio effeithiau gweithredu tyrbinau gwynt ar iechyd, lles cymdeithasol, gwerth adeiladau, twristiaeth, a'r economi leol, o fewn 15 kilometr i'r safleoedd hyn.

Gofynnwn i'r pwyllgor trawsbleidiol gael caniatâd i gomisiynu gwaith ymchwil annibynnol ar faterion datganoledig iechyd, lles cymdeithasol a thwristiaeth mewn perthynas â thyrbinau gwynt, ac i gytuno ar gyfres o safonau ar gyfer ynni gwynt datganoledig, a fydd yn blaenoriaethu gofalu am yr amgylchedd lleol, tir amwynderau, cynefinoedd a natur.

Gofynnwn hefyd i bob safle tyrbinau gwynt ddatganoledig orfod cael cymeradwyaeth mewn refferendwm lleol (o fewn 5 kilometr).

Nid yw'r ddeiseb hon yn ymwneud ag ynni gwynt a reolir gan Gyfarwyddiaeth y Seilwaith Cenedlaethol.

Prif ddeisebydd: James Shepherd Foster

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 1332

P-04-420 : Adeiladu Cofeb i Owain Glyndŵr

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i adeiladu Cofeb i Owain Glyndŵr , ar raddfa a rhwysg Cofeb William Wallace yn Stirling, yr Alban. Mae amryw o leoliadau a fyddai'n addas gan gynnwys Corwen a Machynlleth, i enwi dim ond dau. Os gall Llywodraeth Cymru, yn ôl y sôn, fod yn cynllunio i ailaddurno cyntedd bloc swyddfeydd Aelodau'r Cynulliad sy'n costio 200k , yna credwn y gall Llywodraeth Cymru fuddsoddi swm o arian hyd yn oed yn fwy mewn adeiladu Cofeb i Owain Glyndŵr, sef Tywysog Brodorol Olaf Cymru . Ar ôl ei gwblhau, byddai'n rhoi lleoliad y Gofeb ar y map gan ddod â chyllid, y mae cymaint o'i angen, i mewn o dwristiaeth gan roi hwb pellach i ddelwedd Cymru. Felly byddai pawb yn elwa.

Prif ddeisebydd: Russell Gwilym Morris

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 74

Eitem 2.13

P-04-421 : Rhwystro Trident rhag dod i Gymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Mae'r Prif Weinidog, Carwyn Jones, wedi dweud y byddai croeso mawr i fflyd niwclear y DU (Trident) ddod i Aberdaugleddau pe byddai Alban annibynnol am gael gwared arnyn nhw. Rydym ni'n gwrthwynebu cael arfau dinistriol o'r fath (WMD) yng Nghymru, ac yn annog Llywodraeth Cymru i wrthwynebu'r syniad o ganiatau fflyd niwclear y DU i ymgartrefu yng Nghymru

Prif ddeisebydd: Mabon ap Gwynfor

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 1236

P-04-422 : Ffracio

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy i lunio Datganiad Polisi Cynllunio Mwynau Interim Gweinidogol, yn ogystal â nodyn cyngor technegol newydd, i gryfhau'r egwyddor ragofalus ynglŷn â cheisiadau cynllunio ar gyfer olew a nwy ar y tir, gan gynnwys ffracio. Rhaid dileu pob amheuaeth wyddonol resymol bod risg o effeithiau niweidiol, a rhaid rhoi'r ystyriaeth gryfaf i'r angen brys i liniaru'r newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Prif ddeisebydd: Gareth Clubb

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 914

Eitem 2.15

P-04-423 : Cartref Nyrsio Brooklands

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ystyried a fyddai lleoli safle amwynder dinesig tua 30 metr o Gartref Nyrsio Brooklands yn tresbasu ar hawliau dynol preswylwyr y cartref.

Gwybodaeth ategol : Mae staff Brooklands a pherthnasau'r cleientiaid yn anfodlon iawn. Mae'r cyngor yn cynnig lleoli'r amwynderau dinesig o Ddinbych y Pysgod ger Cartref Nyrsio Brooklands. Rydym yn teimlo'n gryf y dylai'r preswylwyr dreulio'u diwrnodau olaf yn mwynhau heddwch a thawelwch, ac na ddylai sŵn, llygredd, traffig ac amhariad gan wylanod ac yn y blaen amharu arnynt. Mae ein cleientiaid yn oedolion bregus nad ydynt yn gallu mynegi eu barn ac felly mae angen eich cymorth chi arnynt. A hoffech chi dreulio gweddill eich bywyd â'r tip sbwriel yn gymydog i chi? Ni fyddem ni'n dymuno hynny. Gofynnwn i chi helpu gyda'n deiseb a llofnodi isod.

Prif ddeisebydd: Darren Umanee

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 115 Casglwyd dros 4484 o lofnodion gan ddeisebau cysylltiedig.

P-04-424 : Cadw gwasanaethau yn Ysbyty Castell-nedd Port Talbot

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym ni, y rhai sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i wyrdroi'r penderfyniad i symud yr holl Feddygon CT2 o Ysbyty Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn yr hydref heb ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd o flaen llaw. Mae'r penderfyniad hwn yn golygu na fydd gwasanaethau meddygol aciwt yn cael eu darparu yn yr ysbyty, a bydd rhaid i gleifion deithio i Dreforys yn Abertawe neu i Ysbyty Tywysoges Cymru ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr i gael gwasanethau o'r fath. Mae Ysbyty Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn ysbyty Menter Cyllid Preifat o'r radd flaenaf, ac mae trigolion yr ardal hon am i wasanaethau sydd mor hanfodol gael eu cadw yn ysbyty Castell-nedd Port Talbot.

Prif ddeisebydd: Carolyn Edwards

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 193 o lofnodion. Casglwyd dros 5000 o lofnodion gan ddeisebau cysylltiedig.

Eitem 2.17

P-04-425 : Tîm Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Galwn ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i geisio cytundeb â'r Pwyllgor Olympaidd Rhyngwladol ynghylch diwygio'r Siatr Olympaidd i gydnabod gweinyddiaethau datganoledig Prydain Fawr yn eu rhinwedd eu hunain, fel y gallai Llywodraeth Cymru sefydlu Pwyllgor Olympaidd Cenedlaethol, ac fel y gallai ein hathletwyr gystadlu fel rhan o Dîm Cymru yn y dyfodol.

Mae gennym doreth o athletwyr talentog yng Nghymru o ystyried maint ein gwlad; oni fyddai'n wych gweld EIN hathletwyr NI ar y podiwm gyda'u medal aur, wrth i anthem genedlaethol Cymru gael ei chwarae'n uchel i'r byd a baner genedlaethol Cymru (y Ddraig Goch) gael ei chwifio yn y cefndir? Ar hyn o bryd, rhaid iddynt wrando ar anthem sy'n fwy cysylltiedig â Lloegr a gweld baner nad yw'n cynnwys ein baner ni ond baneri Lloegr, yr Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon. Felly, gadewch i ni ddod â thîm ynghyd i gystadlu yn y Gemau Olympaidd nesaf, yn Rio, yn 2016.

Prif ddeisebydd: Russell Gwilym Morris

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 2 Hydref 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 208

P-03-144 Deiseb gan Cwn Tywys y Deillion

Geiriad y Ddeiseb

Yr ydym ni, y cynrychiolwyr a lofnodir isod, yn deisebu Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i osod cyfrifoldeb penodol ar awdurdodau lleol i fod yn ymwybodol o'u dyletswyddau dan y Ddeddf Gwahaniaethu ar Sail Anabledd a'r Ddyletswydd Cydraddoldeb Anabledd, a chydymffurfio â hwy drwy beidio â chreu canol trefi, strydoedd mawr na strydoedd preswyl gydag arwynebau a rennir sy'n gwahaniaethu yn erbyn pobl ddall a phobl sy'n gweld yn rhannol a phobl anabl eraill, gan eu hallgáu i bob pwrpas o amgylchedd y stryd.

Cyflwynwyd gan: Cwn Tywys y Deillion

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor y tro cyntaf: Mis Mehefin 2008

Nifer y llofnodion: 10

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau—sesiwn tystiolaeth lafar
The Minister for Local Government and Communities—oral evidence session

[181] **William Powell:** We move on now to the next agenda item, and we welcome the Minister and his team here this morning.

[182] Minister, I wish you and your team a happy new year—blwyddyn newydd dda. We will be considering a series of petitions under this agenda item: P-03-144, which is on guide dogs for the blind and the issue of shared space; P-03-162, which is on road safety in Llanspyddid; P-03-261, which is on local solutions to Newtown traffic; and P-04-319, which is the Newtown traffic petition. Minister, could you please introduce your team?

[183] **The Minister for Local Government and Communities (Carl Sargeant):** Good morning, Chair, and a happy new year to everyone. This is the first committee meeting of the year, and it is good to be with you this morning. I will let my team members introduce themselves, starting with Jeff Collins.

[184] **Jeff Collins:** I am Jeff Collins, and I am the director of transport in the Welsh Government.

[185] **Ian Davies:** I am Ian Davies, and I am the head of network operations in transport.

[186] **William Powell:** First, we will consider issues relating to guide dogs for the blind, petition P-03-144. Minister, could you please lead us off?

[187] **Carl Sargeant:** Chair, I was expecting questions from the committee.

[188] **William Powell:** If you would like to move on to questions immediately, that is okay. I thought that you might have had some initial remarks. Minister, could you please elaborate on the obstacles that prevent adoption in Wales of the UK Government guidance on shared space?

[189] **Carl Sargeant:** The committee will be aware that a report has been published by the Department of Transport in the UK Government. The Welsh Government is still yet to be convinced of a positive outcome in relation to shared space. We believe that there is still work to be done. We are not dismissing the issue, but we are saying that more evidence needs to be taken about the use of shared space in practice. As a Government, we have not endorsed the report. We are not opposed to it in principle, but we are looking at how to gather better evidence on the opportunities that may be presented for shared spaces in the future.

[190] **William Powell:** So, if equality and other issues can be addressed, do you still have an open mind on taking this forward?

[191] **Carl Sargeant:** We are taking forward the cycling Bill, and there are new opportunities to better understand the nature of how we use spaces for pedestrians and vehicles. There is little evidence, as I said, to argue either way about the dangers of a scheme of shared space. My personal view, and that of the Welsh Government, is that we must have better respect of users of infrastructure, both of road services and pedestrianised areas. There are examples of where these areas are in place, where there is a reduced speed limit in a shared space. However, it is still untested. We need to have better evidence on how these areas will develop. The Welsh Government will not be pursuing shared spaces in Wales in our schemes until there is better evidence that shows that they could prove a better solution for infrastructure in our communities.

[192] **Bethan Jenkins:** Rydych yn nodi na fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn datblygu cynlluniau manau a rennir ar ffyrdd o fewn ei hawdurdodaeth nes iddi gael rhagor o dystiolaeth am effaith cynlluniau'r DU. Pa bryd y rhagwelwch y bydd digon o dystiolaeth ar gael?

Bethan Jenkins: You state that the Welsh Government will not develop shared-space schemes on roads within its jurisdiction until further evidence is forthcoming on the effect of UK schemes. When do you anticipate that sufficient evidence will be available?

[193] **Carl Sargeant:** I am sorry, Chair, I only got half of that through the translation, but I think that the last bit, which I heard, was the important bit, on when we intend to follow on with shared-space schemes.

[194] We are mindful of what is happening in the UK. My team will keep abreast of what is happening. I am keen to find a solution that everyone is happy with. As I said, it is about a cultural change in the way pedestrians and traffic use the infrastructure. The issue is about the respect element, because at the moment we have fixed solutions: kerbsides, barriers and so on, which separate pedestrians from traffic. Once you remove those, you would think that the risk would increase. We need to be able to evidence that. If we are to propose that we should have a shared space, we have to be assured of the cultural operation of such an area, so that pedestrians and road users have equal rights. We have to be convinced of that, and I am yet to be convinced. That is why we need to look at the evidence that is being pursued and what is happening in England.

[195] There are examples of other countries that do this as well, so we are looking beyond the UK boundary.

[196] **William Powell:** Good. Joyce, you have particular experience of this issue.

[197] **Joyce Watson:** Minister, we have had evidence from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association indicating that local authorities are not consulting with disabled people's groups effectively. What steps will you take to ensure that local authorities follow best practice?

[198] I also raise a concern of my own. My dog is now blind and I walk him with him being completely without sight. That has given me an insight into how difficult it can be to negotiate a space and the obstacles within that space. There are boundaries that he knows, understands and follows. It has given me a completely different perspective from a position of trying to negotiate a space, albeit with a blind dog. However, it would be just the same if he was a person with absolutely no sight whatsoever. I walk him in the same place he has walked for 11 years and I have observed how he uses boundaries to good effect. Guide dogs are used to lead people who are blind and use the guidelines that they have trained to use. If we were to have shared spaces and take that legislation forward, all those dogs who have been trained to guide in the way they currently do would immediately have a problem. How would we deal with that? If the dogs have a problem, the people who rely on them have exactly the same, if not a bigger, problem.

[199] **Carl Sargeant:** It is a very complex and important question. I am sure that the committee understands the legislative nature of these proposals and my responsibility in that regard. Local authorities are highway authorities unto themselves and they have a duty to comply as a highway agency. I have my own authority with regard to Welsh Government road networks, but local authorities have authority on local roads. They have a duty with regard to the safe passage of all traffic, including all pedestrians and cyclists, so you may wish to consider approaching local authorities directly on that. They are expected to comply with those regulations. As I said earlier, I have no intention of introducing shared spaces as Welsh Government policy until I can evidence the proposal. I would expect local authorities to also consider our approach to this, but, as I said earlier, they are highway authorities in their own right. However, in order for them to pursue such a proposal, they would have to consider their statutory responsibilities with regard to safety. So, they are in the very same position as me. They need to be able to evidence right and wrong and the benefits of such an operation in the communities they represent.

[200] **William Powell:** Thanks very much. I think that concludes our consideration of shared spaces. We are now going to move to a pair of petitions coming from radically different

positions on the Newtown bypass proposals, which are petitions P-03-261 and P-04-319. Late last night, we received correspondence from one of the petitioners of petition P-03-261, Gary Saady from Newtown Traffic Solutions group. Given the late nature of this, I should read the text so that we have the context of his remarks.

Response to the Petitions Committee

Prepared by:

Andrea Gordon
Policy and Engagement Manager
Guide Dogs Cymru
Building 3
Eastern Business Park
St Mellons
Cardiff
CF3 5EA

This response is supported by

RNIB Cymru
Wales Council for the Blind
Sight Support
Vision Support
Cardiff, Vales and Valleys
Sense Cymru
Disability Wales

Petition ref. P0344

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Shared Space

Guide Dogs Cymru is grateful for the opportunity to respond to evidence given by the Minister for Local Government and Communities with regard to shared space schemes and their impact on blind and partially sighted people and other vulnerable pedestrians.

We are experts in the area of mobility for blind and partially sighted people. Our work has been transforming the lives of many thousands of blind and partially sighted people for over 80 years.

Our core service is the provision of guide dogs, but we also work with those who want to learn how to get about using a long cane, teaching them specific techniques including orientation and how to form a mental map of a route, negotiating obstacles such as street clutter and cars parked on pavements.

An essential element of this skills acquisition is finding a safe and reliable route using navigational clues such as kerbs, tactile surfaces, controlled road crossings, colour contrasted street furniture, almost anything in fact, which tells the individual about their surroundings and can be used as a guide, or reassurance, that they know exactly where they are within their environment. Even if a guide dog is being used for mobility, the owner must know where they are going, which direction to take at junctions and crucially, when it is safe to cross a road.

Guide dogs are trained to stop at a kerb and sit, indicating to the owner that there is a choice to be made about whether they go straight on or not. Without a kerb, there is no clear warning for a dog or a long cane user and in this way, kerbs are the foundation of orientation. Even where they are dropped, they must be marked with tactile surface to show where the pavement ends and the road begins. Without this strong clear message, both guide dog owners and long cane users can, without knowing it, step into the road.

A shared surface street is where the footway and carriageway are at the same level with no distinct pavement and in some cases the removal of controlled crossings. Some schemes also have raised junctions where the carriageway is at the same level as the footway. In these schemes, cars, buses, cyclists and pedestrians have to share the same surface. The idea is to encourage drivers to be more cautious.

Blind, deaf blind and partially sighted people find it very difficult to use shared surface streets and many avoid these areas. For people with learning difficulties they require potentially difficult choices to be made and young children, without the actual presence of the kerb, may step out into the traffic.

Kerbs are particularly for Deafblind people, who not only face the issues encountered by people with visual impairments, but also have extra difficulties hearing traffic. Therefore, judging the direction and distance of moving vehicles becomes even more difficult.

The advocates of shared surfaces suggest that pedestrians, motorists and cyclists should make 'eye contact' to decide who moves first. This compromises the safety and independence of many vulnerable people. Even if traffic is slow moving, drivers and cyclists are considerate, there can be a constant pressure of being prepared to avoid vehicles without a pavement area to rest. This is of course particularly an issue if you cannot see the traffic.

As a blind participant at a focus group in The Netherlands said:

"Nine out of ten car drivers will stop for me. How do I recognise the tenth?"

In some shared space streets the footway and carriageway are visually different but there is no difference in the level of areas of the surface intended for pedestrian or vehicle use that would be found with traditional pavements and roads. Not only is there no distinction for pedestrians who cannot see, it is also very easy for cyclists and cars to drive and park on the footway area.

The Welsh Government has adopted the Social Model of Disability, which signals their acknowledgement that disability is the result of the environment and not the fault of the individual. We would contend that shared surface streets are a real challenge to the Social Model by creating an environment which prevents disabled people taking control and excludes them for reasons which are not their fault. Forcing them to depend on eye contact for safe passage through a shared surface area means that those for whom this is impossible or unreasonably difficult, cannot move about safely and are therefore excluded for reasons related to their impairment. We would ask that the committee take this into account when considering the evidence we present in this paper.

Summary and Context

We are particularly pleased to note the Minister's reluctance to implement the UK Government's guidance on shared space, until he receives further evidence of impact. Our aim in submitting evidence to the Committee is to illustrate the problems of shared surface schemes where they have been experienced in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Europe.

The Minister's view and that of his Government, is that there needs to be

"better respect of users of infra structure, both of road services and pedestrianised areas."

In this response, we will give examples of shared space schemes where that "respect" element has been absent, resulting in accidents, including one very recent one which was sadly fatal.

The Minister goes on to say that

"The issue is about the respect element, because at the moment we have fixed solutions: kerbsides, barriers etc., which separate pedestrians from traffic. Once you remove those, you would think that the risk would increase. We need to be able to evidence that. If we are to propose that we should have a shared space, we have to be assured of the cultural operation of such an area, so that pedestrians and road users have equal rights. We have to be convinced of that and I am yet to be convinced. That is why we need to look at the evidence that is being pursued and what is happening in England. There are examples of other countries that do this as well, so we are looking beyond the UK boundary."

To answer the Minister, we will provide evidence from shared space schemes in Northern Ireland and refer to the concerns of blind and partially sighted pedestrians in Europe.

Shared space schemes in England

Policy context

With reference to the Local Transport Note guidance issued by the Department for Transport: Guide Dogs made a number of comments about the content of the document, summarised below:

We were pleased to note

- The inclusion of delineated footway areas, comfort space
- Where tactile or textured surface is to be used as a delineator, the minimum width of tactile paving should be 800mm
- Inclusion of the Equality Act 2010 in the document
- The removal of a stipulated 25mm kerb height

(Guide Dogs has conducted research to show that blind and partially sighted people cannot reliably detect this height of kerb).
(Appendix 1)

- The introduction states that there is 'no such thing as a definitive shared space design. Each site is different and the way the street performs will depend on its individual characteristics.
- Tonal contrast is also mentioned with the suggestion, (rather than the stipulation), that abstract patterns should be avoided as they may confuse any delineation messages.
- The recommendation of post scheme monitoring and the allocation of funding to cover modifications should they be necessary.

We were concerned to note

- Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is mentioned, but without mentioning its importance. It has been listed as one of the quality audits that could be, not should be, carried out
- Some parts promote a minimalist approach, which introduces features if deemed necessary. For example the provision of a comfort space is mentioned as one aspect that could be omitted in the initial design and created later if required.
- There is reference to Exhibition Road (Kensington, London) where the initial trials found that a 800mm corduroy tactile surface could be reliably detected by blind and partially sighted pedestrians. In contradiction, it goes on to say that 'an examination of the results suggests there may be scope for reducing this width to 600mm while maintaining its effectiveness as a delineator strip!' This has not been monitored for effectiveness and is not what we would recommend.
- The document does not promote controlled or uncontrolled crossing (6.20 – 6.22) as they require markings and associated street furniture which do not comply with the shared space ethos, rather informal crossings are encouraged.

N.B. Please note the Caernarfon example in the Wales shared space section in this paper for an example of where a controlled crossing was required for the safety of blind and partially sighted pedestrians.

We would refer the Committee to the appendices to this report, which provides further detailed analysis of shared space research.

Shared space schemes and experience in England

Possibly the most well known example of a shared space scheme is Exhibition Road in London.

Good progress has been made on the back of The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association's Judicial Review proceedings taken against the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. The original design of a single surface environment with no delineation was redesigned and split in to pedestrian footways and a road section with a transition zone on one side for parking cars, bike racks etc. Guide Dogs has been working with the Council, who have now applied a corduroy paving strip 800mm in width as a delineator, which is detectable even at acute angles. The traffic speed has been reduced to 20mph, street furniture has been aligned and educational materials are being prepared.

One of the remaining issues in Exhibition Road is the absence of a light controlled crossing and Guide Dogs and the partner organisations of the Streets Ahead Campaign have highlighted the benefits through high profile media interviews and in meetings with the council. The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea is now considering the evidence to support a controlled crossing in Exhibition Road, but the scheme continues to be controversial:

In February 2012, a 25 year old man suffered head injuries after being hit by a delivery vehicle, just two weeks after the official opening of the scheme by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

The local press reported,

"Exhibition Road, in South Kensington, was only reopened as a so-called shared space at the beginning of the month, despite the objections of residents groups who said it would be dangerous."

Pauline Auerbach who owns the nearby Kensington Creperie said,

"As far as I'm concerned, it was only a matter of time before something like this happened. We've seen plenty of near

misses since the road was reopened. My manager saw it and although the guy that got hit didn't seem to be too badly injured, surely it is a warning to the council. I know these people have to do their job, but delivery drivers have been known to turn or reverse where they shouldn't do. They don't care because they don't have to live here."

Emergency services were called to treat the man and he was taken to St Mary's Hospital in Paddington with head injuries.

Labour Group deputy leader, Councillor Emma Dent Coad, said:

"It is pure luck that the victim was not more badly hurt and we hope he makes a speedy recovery. But this accident was entirely preventable. The so-called shared space design for Exhibition Road is simply unsuitable for such a high volume of pedestrians and traffic. We've been saying this since the proposal was first discussed but the Council will not listen. They will have to make drastic changes to the scheme now, or suffer the consequences."

It is worth noting that the accident victim was not visually impaired.

It is our view that visually impaired people are even more vulnerable than their sighted peers in such environments

Regarding the shared surface scheme in Ashford, Kent, the BBC reported,

"Pedestrians have been avoiding crossing the 'shared space' area of Ashford, according to a study by the University of West England. (Appendix 2)

The scheme, which turned Ashford's ring road into streets where drivers and pedestrians have equal priority, has been in place since November 2008.

Signs and traffic lights were removed from the area and the scheme had been hailed as a success.

However the study showed most people wanted a return to formal crossings.

It found that people avoided the centre of Elwick Square, keeping to the edges rather than trying to cross the road.

Dr Steve Melia, from the West of England University said:

“The whole idea of shared space is supposed to be good for pedestrians, benefiting them, encouraging people to walk. When they do cross, they try to use the courtesy crossings which are marked into the ground. But people don't like those very much and they don't feel that drivers give the same amount of priority as they would on a traditional zebra crossing.”



In Blackpool, on 21 July 2011, the local press reported a car accident on the “new look” Promenade, where a shared space scheme has been introduced. Police were called to the incident outside Chubby’s Bar, near Talbot Square, at around 8.30pm the day before. No one was injured in the collision but police say they will be ‘keeping an eye’ on that stretch. A spokesman said:

“It is the first accident on that section of road. We believe the vehicles were heading north away from the Golden Mile

towards Talbot Square when the incident happened. We will keep an eye on that area. It has been changed to a 20mph zone which people need to be alert to."

There had been safety concerns ever since the Golden Mile designed around the 'shared space' concept with no road markings, or kerbs, re-opened to traffic the previous month. Some have anticipated more accidents with one local group describing the scheme as having become a "no-go area" for blind residents and visitors.

A more serious accident resulting in injury to a pedestrian had occurred earlier that month, 6 July 2011. Kevin Bradley, aged 73 was walking on what he thought to be the pavement along the new look promenade towards Blackpool Tower, when he was struck by a taxi. He was hospitalised with a broken leg and cuts to his head.

His daughter, Mrs Hinchcliffe from South Shore, told the local paper

"The council should either pedestrianise the Promenade or put in proper pavements. I have no doubt it is only a matter of time until someone is killed, the new layout is so confusing. My dad was looking at the ground because he thought he was on the pavement and this was in broad daylight. What will happen in the Illuminations when it's really busy and people are looking at the lights? I've driven down there and its hard to work out where the road ends and the pavements start, people's lives are at risk."

According to the local paper, Blackpool Council have defended the new-look Promenade saying safety precautions have been put in place.

John Donnellon, Service Director for Built Environment said:

"We will fully investigate the factors which led to Mr Bradley stepping out in front of the taxi and see how it could have

been avoided. Following feedback we have already placed signs around this junction to let pedestrians know that it's used by buses and taxis and we will consider if other alterations are needed. The new layout of the Promenade is designed to slow the speed of vehicles through the area and the measures we put in place will have helped avoid a more serious accident".

Putting aside the nature in which councils spend more council tax payers money trying to put right fashionable schemes that are not fit for purpose, the claim that the reduction in traffic speed meant that Mr Bradley's injuries could have been worse ignores the possibility that with a traditional kerb, Mr Bradley may have completed his journey without incident or injury.

Finally for England, the most tragic consequence of a shared space scheme occurred in Coventry in January 2012.

The following story is taken from a report in the Coventry Telegraph

The niece of a Coventry pensioner who died after being hit by a bus in a "shared space" has called for traffic lights to be re-introduced. David Thompson, who was partially sighted, suffered multiple injuries in the accident in January and later died in hospital.

The collision occurred in part of the city centre where both vehicles and pedestrians have an equal right of way. Margaret Thompson said that if nothing was done "another accident" would happen. She said her uncle suffered a shattered pelvis, two broken legs, a broken arm and lacerations to his lower leg in the accident that happened in Hales Street. He later had to have a leg amputated. Ms Thompson said that she wanted

"The council to put the lights back up and keep pedestrians safe. With the traffic lights there he didn't struggle at all. I think once the traffic lights had gone he would have struggled. Anybody would struggle."

Coventry City Council, which has said it will not comment about the incident until after a police inquiry, began to introduce the new-style junctions at a number of places in the city last year.

We would ask the committee to note that the common theme running through these accidents is confusion and the need for safety measures such as additional signage and educational materials to be introduced. We would contend that in a time of financial restraint, shared space schemes are a poor use of public money and we will go on to show how in Wales the same issues have arisen. It is significant that the one fatal accident involved a partially sighted pedestrian, but not surprising.

Shared Space Schemes in Northern Ireland

There are two schemes to note here: the Belfast Streets Ahead project (the regeneration of Belfast City Centre) agreed to retain the kerb in its main street, Donegal Place, until full pedestrianisation. This was a departure from the original plan to introduce a shared street until pedestrianisation took place.

The second was when a representative from the Department for Social Development (DSD) at a meeting of the Northern Ireland Vision Strategy stated that there was a moratorium on shared streets' awaiting the outcome of the DfT (Department for Transport) research.

Shared surface schemes in Scotland

The Scottish Government recognised the potential negative impact of shared surfaces on disabled people in its policy document 'Designing Streets'. This states the need for consultation with disabled people at an early stage and there are many examples of where this is happening, on a local scale, across Scotland.

Designing Streets, published in March 2010 is the first policy statement in Scotland for street design and marks a change in the emphasis of guidance towards place-making and away from a system focused upon the dominance of motor vehicles. It has been created to support the Scottish Government's place-making agenda and is intended to sit alongside the 2001 planning policy document Designing Places, which sets out government aspirations for design and the role of the planning system.

(Designing Streets is available at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/22120652/0>)

Shared surface schemes in Europe

In February 2012, the Austrian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted (BSVÖ) in cooperation with the EBU (European Blind Union) and a Belgian partner applied for funds at the EU Commission's citizenship programme to realise a project on how shared spaces in Europe can be made to work for blind and partially sighted people.

The idea is that as a first step, the exchange of experiences and knowledge between concerned citizens across the EU is fostered by workshops and mutual visits which assess already existing or planned shared spaces in the respective countries. In a second phase, best practices are identified and lastly, recommendations and guidelines based on the experience gained are developed with the objective to reach Europe-wide standards for shared spaces.

Generally, of course, shared spaces are perceived as a threat to blind and partially sighted street users. There is an official final presentation of the shared space project in the North German town of Bohmte available at

http://www.bohmte.de/pics/medien/1_1253627530/Abschlusspraesentation_Bohmte_090922.pdf (in German only) which states that there needs to be far more consideration of the requirements of vulnerable groups when developing shared space schemes.

Shared space schemes and experience in Wales

Policy context

Before giving examples, it is useful to take into account the policy context: There are 115,000 people with sight loss in Wales and 18 of the 22 local authorities in Wales have a higher prevalence of sight loss than England due to a much greater proportion of people aged over 65 years.

Research commissioned by Sense indicates that there are several thousand people in Wales who experience combined sight and hearing difficulties and who can be classified as deaf-blind. The prevalence of deaf-blindness is particularly noticeable among those over 65 years old and is highest among those over 70 years old.

The provisions of the Equality Act require all local authorities to engage with disabled people, conduct Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) and ensure that the views of those with whom they engage are clearly reflected in the published EIA. Sadly it is our experience that EIA's are not consistently understood or conducted and the consequences of that failure can be seen in the examples below.

However, the Welsh Government has undertaken to publish a Framework for Action for Independent Living. The objective supports the "Programme for Government" commitments on supporting people by promoting positive attitudes, removing barriers and strengthening advice/support and advocacy. There are opportunities to improve significantly the wellbeing of disabled people and increase their participation in employment and community life.

Within this framework, the Independent Living Project is supporting several working groups and one of these is on access to the built environment. At the point of writing this paper, the group has only met once, but already it has flagged concerns including the lack of effective "Design and Access" statements, the loss of effective Access Groups and the absence of Access Officers. More meetings are scheduled and it is to be hoped that the real experience of the disabled people who are invited will inform the programme for action to be published later in 2012.

Examples



The most concerning example of a shared space in Wales is the Maes in Caernarfon. Here the regeneration of the town square has resulted in an area where pedestrians and vehicles have to negotiate safe passage across an open space where a number of roads converge. Since the piece below was published in the local press, some adaptations have been made such as the addition of some guardrails and a controlled "Puffin" crossing in place of the Zebra crossing referred to here. There is also a recognition within Gwynedd council to learn from the scheme and much more effective discussions now take place with the Access Group.

Local Press statement:

Blind have safety concerns over Caernarfon crossing

13 August 2009

CAMPAIGNERS for the visually impaired and the disabled are calling for a "dangerous" zebra crossing to be removed from the entrance to a town square before someone is killed.

Caernarfon Blind Club members and the Arfon Access Group want a puffin crossing to be installed on Bridge Street to allow blind people to cross and enter Y Maes safely.

According to them, the current crossing offers no security or peace of mind to those blind people brave enough to enter the square as it's currently laid out.

The Arfon Access Group also accused Gwynedd Council of "completely ignoring" the concerns they raised about introducing a "shared space" scheme and cobblestones on the Maes.

The group's secretary Vin West said:

"A zebra crossing is dangerous for a blind or visually impaired person to use as there are no lights or sounds to say that it is safe to cross. A puffin crossing on the other hand indicates when it is safe to cross, the smooth flow of traffic. The council's argument is that traffic lights actually cause drivers to speed up but that frankly is a separate issue to installing a safe crossing (for blind people). The council has told us that it will continue to use the zebra crossing on a trial basis indefinitely. But that is not acceptable. Do we have to wait for an injury or worse to occur before this crossing is removed? At the minute there are members of the blind and visually impaired community actively avoiding going anywhere near the Maes because they feel it is too dangerous".

Caernarfon Blind Club members John Ellis, Ann Hughes and Morlais Williams are all calling for a puffin crossing to be installed.

John Ellis from Rhos Isaf, is blind. He said:

"With a puffin crossing you press the button and know it's safe to cross. There is so much noise and traffic down there at the moment that it's a complete minefield and there is so much uncertainty with a zebra crossing. It's only a matter of time before someone is killed or seriously injured."

He also issued a challenge to council officers:

"We've invited the officers of the council to walk blindfolded around the Maes, to simulate blindness and to show the obstacles blind people have to face there every day but they have refused to take up our offer."

Arfon Access Group also accused the council of ignoring their concerns. A council spokesman said it was "always eager" to hear the views of local access groups and would continue to hold constructive meetings with members of the Arfon Access Group, Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Caernarfon Blind Club.

The Aberdare Regeneration Scheme

In June 2011, Rhonda Cynnon Taf (RCT) council began a public consultation which sought the views of local people on proposals that would significantly impact on the town centre, including areas where elements of shared space were to be introduced. This paper will not go into detail about the process that followed, but what is important is that following discussion with local blind and partially sighted people, supported by Guide Dogs Cymru and RNIB Cymru, the need to retain the kerb was recognised by the council, along with other changes summarised below:

Summary of key achievements

- The traffic orders are to be strengthened in pedestrian zone areas, to prohibit motor vehicle access during the busy shopping hours. This will provide a safer environment for all users.
- A 20mph zone is to be introduced around the town centre gyratory to reduce traffic speeds.

- Provision of granite paving at key road crossing points will raise driver awareness to the likelihood of pedestrians.
- In many areas, a change in colour between the new sandstone footways and the black tarmac carriageway will provide good colour contrast.
- Kerb upstands are to be maintained to define the edge of the road providing assistance to guide dog and long-cane users.
- A new ramped access has been provided to allow easy access to the front of the Library.
- Appropriate use of corduroy and tactile paving.
- The project seeks to 'de-clutter' the street furniture and to rationalise its location to minimise obstructions to footpath users.
- The adoption of street furniture with good colour contrast. An example being the retention of the existing black bollards rather than the use of smaller granite bollards.
- Enhanced communications including issuing of media releases to the local Talking News service and importantly advance notice of forthcoming work areas.
- Enhanced communications including establishing close working relationships with user groups including RCT Access Group, the County Steering Group, RNIB and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

The last point here is perhaps of greatest significance as it refers to a positive outcome and the prospect of a future productive dialogue between local disabled people and RCT council.

Abertillery Regeneration

This is a smaller scale regeneration but nevertheless significant for local blind and partially sighted people.

A guide dog owner, Mr N, who was being adversely affected by changes to his familiar environment, contacted Blaenau Gwent council. The contentious issues were fewer and simpler to resolve than in Aberdare, but we would site the council's response as a model of good practise. One particularly dangerous crossing, where there were no kerbs and where it was easy for Mr. N to step into the road, (which is busy and on a main route), will be changed from a Belisha Beacon to a Puffin or Pelican which Mr N can use in safety. In other locations, the raised crossings which again put Mr N at risk of stepping inadvertently into the road will be clearly marked with the appropriate tactile warning surface. These are not true examples of shared spaces, but several emails and one meeting resulted in a positive solution for all concerned.

In Wales, we are pleased to say that there are examples of local authorities demonstrating a willingness to take on board the concerns of disabled, blind and partially sighted people over shared spaces. This is not consistent and so cannot be taken to mean that there is a good level of understanding among highways engineers, design consultants and even those responsible for equality issues. We would therefore welcome clear guidance from the Welsh Government to ensure that EIA's are conducted, that engagement with a range of disabled people is accessible, proportionate and appropriate and that scant financial resources are not squandered on schemes that can result in "no go" areas for vulnerable pedestrians.

Conclusion

This summary of the impact of shared surfaces is presented to the Petitions Committee by Guide Dogs Cymru, supported by our partners across Wales. The appendices contain more technical and academic research, but the essence of what we are asking is simple:

That the Welsh Government takes steps to prevent the introduction of further shared surface schemes in the light of the evidence we have included in this paper.

We know that many blind and partially sighted people are isolated and that the incidence of depression caused by sight loss is high. Learning to get about safely in the external environment is hard enough and when shopping, going to the doctor, or just visiting friends involves negotiating through traffic without the reassurance of a kerb, it is not surprising that many vulnerable pedestrians, as we have seen, are too afraid to take the risk.

The level of understanding displayed by many local authorities is low and as in the Exhibition Road example, local people and the organisations that support them often have to fight hard to get their voices heard. We hope that the specific engagement duties in Wales will give that voice strength, but there is much work to be done and in the meantime there is very little to prevent local authorities introducing shared surfaces, even when they can affect the mobility of vulnerable pedestrians in such a profound way.

Appendices

1. TNS-BMRB (2010) The impact of shared surface streets and shared use pedestrian/cycle paths on the mobility and independence of blind and partially sighted people. (Commissioned by Guide Dogs)
2. Moody ,S. and Melia, S. (2011) Shared space - implications of recent research for transport policy. Working Paper. University of the West of England, Bristol. The publisher's URL is <http://www.journals.elsevier.com/transport?policy/>
3. Guide Dogs (2010) Inclusive Streets: Design principles for blind and partially sighted people. ([http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/fileadmin/gdmain/user/Help_us/Campaigns_and_petitions/Documents/Inclusive Streets Design Principles booklet Guide Dogs 2010.pdf](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/fileadmin/gdmain/user/Help_us/Campaigns_and_petitions/Documents/Inclusive_Streets_Design_Principles_booklet_Guide_Dogs_2010.pdf))

All the above are attached as separate documents

P-04-391 Ffordd osgoi Llandeilo

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Yn galw am newid llwybr y ffordd ddwyreiniol fabwysiedig a'i hadeiladu ar hyd glan bellaf (de-ddwyrain) afon Tywi, yn hytrach nag ar hyd glan yr afon yng ngwaelod y dref, gan groesi'r afon ger pont y rheilffordd

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Gweler llythyr y deisebwyr at Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Tim ap Hywel

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 15 Mai 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 31

PET(4)-13-12 : Tuesday 2 October 2012
P-04-391 : Llandeilo By-pass

Mr. Richard Workman,
Head of Technical Services,
Carmarthenshire County Council,
County Hall,
Carmarthen SA31 1JP

Tim ap Hywel

CC. Carl Sargeant AM
Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM
Councillor Ieuan Jones (County)
Councillor Edward Thomas (Town)

27th. January 2012

LLandeilo By-pass: To Lobby for a Return to the Original Eastern Route, Instead of the Refined Eastern Route.

At the 2006 public consultation, the town indicated that the eastern by-pass route as presented to them in the map we'd all had a copy of, was acceptable to them. Yet late in the consultative process a "refinement" to that eastern route was introduced; at the time looking very tentative, – with the use of dashed lines to indicate possibility. I don't think people really took it on board, and I don't think it had proper discussion. It was certainly a surprise to find, following the consultation that the eastern by-pass with the late, tentative "refinement" in, had been set in stone as the protected route.

As set out in the consultation report, the "refinement" was driven by two engineering considerations:

1. To keep the road as much as possible out of the area susceptible to flooding;
2. To avoid the expense of having to build a bridge diagonal to the river, rather than at right-angles to it.

But I don't think due weight was ever given to its impact on the town. It brings the by-pass, with its noise, fumes and headlights, right up against the properties in the south-east quarter of the town: notably, Bridge Street (south side), Quay Street and Church Street. You only have to look at the sorry impact of the Carmarthen by-pass on the properties in the Parade and the Esplanade, and then bear in mind the Llandeilo by-pass will be even closer. Additionally it means the road will run slap-bang through the middle of the world-famous view of Llandeilo, rising on its hill above the tranquil water-meadows of the Tywi; one of the treasures of Wales. I don't think anyone with a responsibility for care of the Welsh heritage should sign that off lightly.

As regards taking the road out of the flood area, I can tell you that the stretch of the "refinement" from the river to the base of the town escarpment (about 1/3 of the "refinement"'s length) crosses a field that in a bad flood goes eight foot under water. The railway on its embankment, built with victorian technology goes unabashedly straight through the middle of the area they are seeking to avoid, and has never had any trouble from floods. I guess it's all down to the expense of raising embankments. I should imagine the "refinement"

road, where it goes along the edge of the flood area, would still have to have a low embankment.

Okay, they sought to avoid the complications (=expense) of a diagonal bridge, and its possibly increased flood vulnerability (=more expense, to ensure it's sufficiently resilient).

But isn't it worth spending a few more pounds to preserve an amenity and a beauty that once lost can never be recovered, rather than saving a few quid and getting a shoddy job, - ever after to incur general reproach. The same cost argument applies of course to having to raise a few extra metres of embankment

The third reason adduced in favour of the "refinement" was that by being at the bottom of the town escarpment it will keep the road out of view of the town, and that this in turn addresses some of the concerns of the 1993 enquiry. But I reject this as spurious: merely an attempt to put a fair face on something that was actually done for engineering and budgetary reasons. Where would it be out of view from? From the Crescent Road boulevard that's all, and even there you will still hear it loudly enough. *[Actually, I just checked this afternoon: it's going to be perfectly visible from there, - and close too.]* It's going to be out of sight to RHosmaen Street and the rest of the town wherever it is. It's not going to be out of sight to the south-east quarter of the town; they're going to have it at the bottom of their gardens. It's not going to be out of sight from Llandeilo Bridge. The current beautiful prospect up the Tywi valley will be blocked by the "refinement" bridge monstrously close and the stream of traffic coming off the new bridge descending the embankment across the field.

To address this I urge a return to the pre-"refinement" eastern by-pass route that we actually signed up to. Yes, it would be visible from the boulevard, but it would be a long way off and not in-your-face, like the route right up against the town would be. Nor would it be in-your-face when viewed from Llandeilo bridge. Instead it would pass almost mid-way between Llandeilo and FFair-fach. It would be a good way off from the residential area of the town; like Llandysul by-pass is. It wouldn't desecrate nearly so much, that famous view. In fact travelling for much of its length side-by-side with the railway would minimize its amenity impact, - insofar as it wouldn't cut a fresh scar of its own through the beauty of the Tywi valley.

Now, I know the town and the town council subsequently assented to the "refined" eastern by-pass, as proposed. But the main concern and anxiety of the town (particularly those, obviously, not directly affected by it) was, and is, to have a by-pass, rather than no by-pass. They were, and are, extremely anxious not to rock the boat in any way that might impact or derail a by-pass roll-out. But I really don't believe that they are passionately wedded to the "refined" eastern route, or opposed to the original eastern route. They just want a by-pass, - some by-pass, to happen as quickly and in as hitch-free a manner as possible. In fact I suspect that secretly many of them think the original eastern route is preferable.

Could I therefore humbly ask you to at least give this proposal an airing at your meeting with Llandeilo Town Council to discuss the by-pass, provisionally arranged I believe for some time early in February.

Yours faithfully,

Tim ap Hywel (Leadbeater)

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-391
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/06282/12
William Powell AM

Chair of the Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Bill.

20th
June 2012

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2012 regarding petition P-04-391 from Mr Tim ap Hywel, which asks for an amendment to the adopted eastern route to be along the far (south East) bank of the river Tywi, rather than along the foot of the town bank, and to cross the river near the railway bridge.

The current Protected Route for a bypass of A483 Llandeilo and Ffairfach was announced in June 2007 following a Public Consultation Exercise (PCE) in 2006. Four options for a bypass were taken to the PCE and are shown on Figure 3 of the 'Statement of Results of Public Workshop and Consultation on the Review of the Protected Route' (SOR) a copy of which is attached.

This figure also shows the "Refined Protected Route" which was developed following the PCE. The route minimises the impact of the bypass on the River Tywi, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), its floodplain and views from Llandeilo. This alignment places the proposed highway embankment predominantly at the outer edge of the river ecosystems at times of flooding. In addition the proposed bridge alignment would minimise the impact on the River Tywi SAC.

The route suggested by Mr Tim ap Hywel could be promoted by him and others in the future as an 'Objectors Alternative Route' to the Welsh Government proposals. This opportunity would arise when the Welsh Government publishes its draft Statutory Orders, Environmental Statement and Statement to inform an Appropriate Assessment for the proposed bypass of Llandeilo and Ffairfach.

At that time the route would be agreed with him and a booklet prepared showing the 'Objectors Alternative Route' and the Welsh Government's proposal. This booklet would be circulated before the start of any Public Local inquiry (PLI) to enable people to either support or object to it. The Independent Inspector appointed to hold the PLI would consider the 'Objectors Alternative Route' during the inquiry and comment upon it in his Report.

If the decision was then taken to support the 'Objectors Alternative Route' it would then be necessary to restart the design development process leading to the publication of new draft statutory orders etc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CS', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities

Eitem 3.3

P-04-361 Pas bws am ddim i fyfyrwyr o dan 25 oed sydd mewn addysg llawn amser

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Dylai myfyrwyr o dan 25 oed sydd mewn addysg llawn amser gael pas bws Arriva am ddim. Mae myfyrwyr sydd yn y coleg ac yn gorffen ar ôl hanner dydd yn gorfod aros tan bump o'r gloch i ddal y bws sydd wedi'i ddarparu ar eu cyfer. Ni all rai myfyrwyr fforddio tocyn bws (Arriva) oherwydd incwm isel eu rhieni a'r ffaith nad ydynt yn deilwng i dderbyn lwfans cynhالياeth addysg neu grant dysgu'r Cynulliad.

Prif ddeisebydd: Myfyrwyr Coleg Llandrillo

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 24 Ionawr 2012

Nifer y deisebwyr: 15

P-04-371 Tocynnau Teithio Rhatach ar gyfer Defnyddwyr Trafnidiaeth Gyhoeddus sy'n iau na 18 Oed

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni, sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflwyno tocynnau teithio rhatach ar gyfer defnyddwyr trafndiaeth gyhoeddus sy'n iau na 18 oed.

Prif ddeisebydd: Simon Williams-Jones

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 13 Mawrth 2012

Nifer y deisebwyr: 26

Eitem 3.5

P-04-382 Costau teithio i fyfyrwyr ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau costau teithio rhatach ar drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus i'r sawl sydd mewn addysg llawn amser.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Myfyrwyr Lefel A

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 27 Mawrth 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 93

Darren Millar AM / AC

Shadow Minister for Health
Gweinidog yr Wrthblaid dros Iechyd

Welsh Conservative Member for Clwyd West
Aelod y Ceidwadwyr Cymreig dros Orllewin Clwyd

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



REF: CAR/CE/LC

William Powell
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

18th July 2012

Dear William,

Re: Free bus pass for students petition

Further to the oral evidence session with students from Coleg Llandrillo at the Petitions Committee meeting in North Wales on the 2nd July, please find enclosed further information relating to the survey and cost calculations referred to by the students.

It should be noted that these papers have been prepared by the students themselves and I have been asked to forward them to you on their behalf.

I trust that this will assist committee members in their consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Millar AM

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA
Tel/Ffôn: 029 20 898731
e-mail/ebost: darren.millar@wales.gov.uk



55 Market Street, Abergele, LL22 7AF
55 Stryd Y Farchnad, Abergele, LL22 7AF
Tel/ Ffôn: 01745 839117
Web/Gwe: www.darrenmillaram.com

Survey and Summary

-To support the petition for free bus passes for students under 25, and in full time education (P-04-361)

To collect a sum amount of students who agree with the petition we asked 29 students who vary in different courses to answer some questions relating to our petition here are our results -

Question one –

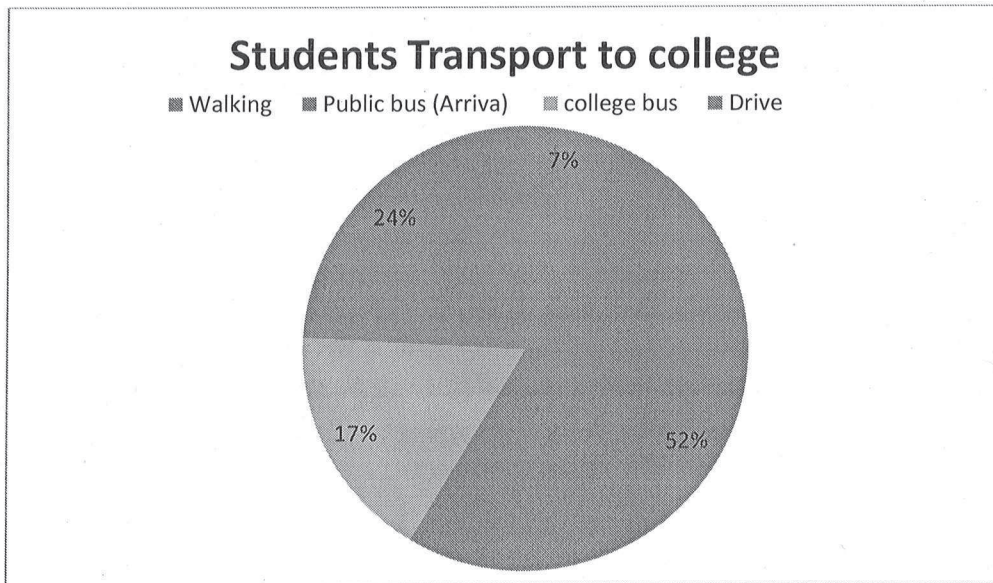
1) What Transport to you use to get to Llandrillo College?

Walking – 2 out of 29 students

Public bus (Arriva) – 15 out of 29 students

College bus – 5 out of 29 students

Drive – 7 out of 29 students



National Assembly for Wales

Questionnaire about free bus passes

Llandrillo Students

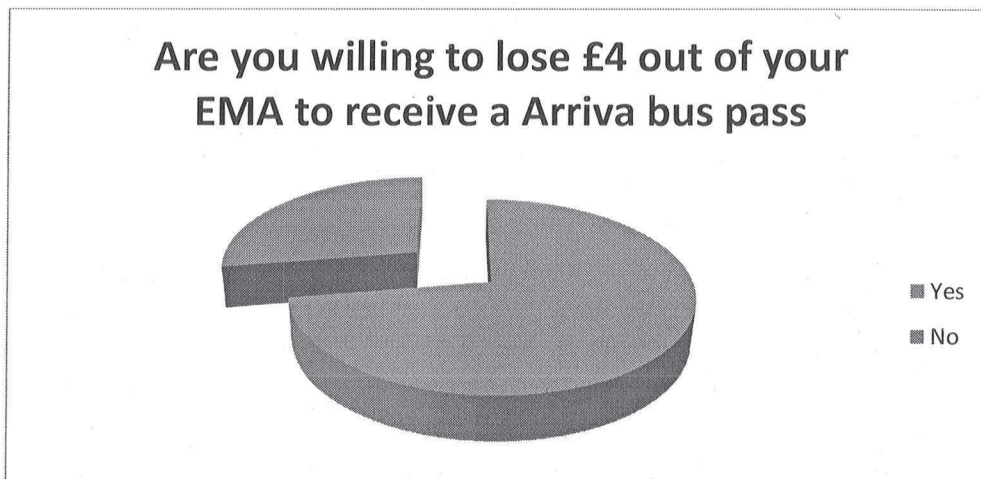
2) Would you use a Free Arriva Bus pas Monday – Friday from 6am to 7pm?

Yes - 23 out of 29 students No - 6 out of 29 students



3) Would you be willing to lose £4 out of your EMA payment to receive an Arriva bus pass (considering that it costs £12 for a student weekly bus pass)

Yes - 21 out of 29 students No – 8 out of 29 students

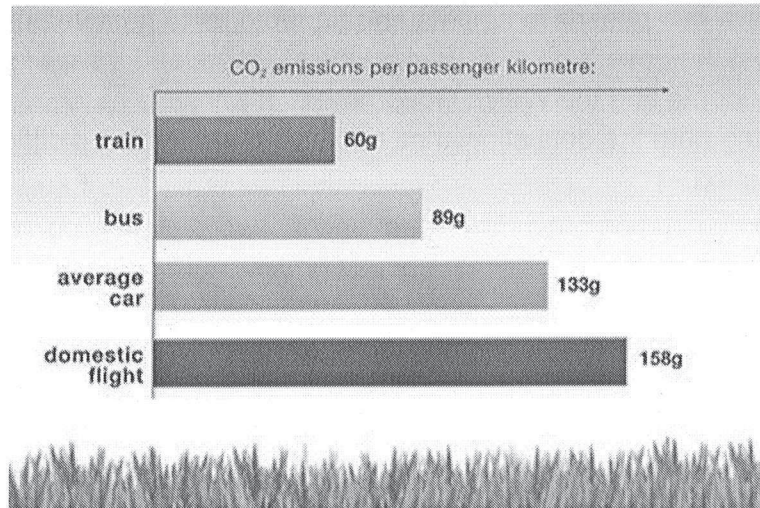


Summary

The benefits of using the free Arriva bus passes are –

- It is a greener way to travel it emits less pollution than a car
- It is a safer way for students to Travel rather than 16-25 year olds driving on motorways
- It is a cheaper way of travel and its more efficient
- Many routes throughout Wales have dedicated bus lanes, so you can avoid sitting in traffic jams and being late for travel.
- No need to drive around trying to find a parking space as there is a limited space in college for parking spaces
- Also getting a road prevents other petitions from arising about students parking outside of the college outside people's houses

These are just a few benefits that have come to the top of my head im sure there is more when you look in depth into the problem.



www.firstgroup.com

National Assembly for Wales

Questionnaire about free bus passes

Llandrillo Students

The best thing about this petition is that it is not costing the Welsh Government a penny because the government is already dishing out money for the EMA so by deducting the £4 from the EMA from the students it's costing the students not you. This way by taking the £4 from the EMA the allowance is actually going on educational needs which EMA was meant to be for in the first place it's either being spent on alcohol, petrol or clothes not educational purposes.

Also you may argue that people who are receiving the EMA payment every week which the highest reward is £30 are technically using the £30 reward just to get back and from college every week how is this helping the student if they need the money for rent or educational purposes? The answer is it's not.

The EMA reward scheme is not fair on all students, because some students are not receiving the access to the rewards due to the households income of the family causing the student to not be able to come into college certain days, is it fair that the Government prevent students from education? The Welsh government should be encouraging students to education not putting barriers and brick walls in front of them. Our petition is not asking for a lot it's merely asking for the Welsh Government to provide free Arriva bus passes to help us and promote us to receive our education it's not going to cost the government, it will cost the students and it's a win-win situation for the students and the Welsh Government. It will save much more money that students signing onto the dole allowance because there finding it difficult to receive their education.

Llandrillo College students

Finance sheet- How we propose to fund extending bus passes to students in full-time education.

14%- Students who are likely to use this *Arriva* bus pass (see our survey research document to see where this % has come from).

Our research suggest that students who currently walk or drive would do so regardless of if they were provided with an *Arriva* bus pass, therefore we have used the 14% average as a base for our calculations.

40 595= current number of students in 16-25 in Further Education Institutions

14% of 40 595= 5 683

£504= Average price of annual bus pass for students (£12 per week, 42 term time weeks in a year)

5 683 x £504= £2 864 232 (cost needed to fund the scheme)

Below are two options that would provide the funding needed by reducing the highest award of the EMA (£30 per week).

17, 180 - Students in Further Education Colleges who receive the £30 per week award.

Option 1

Reducing £4 from the £30 EMA:

£4x 17 180= £68 720

£68 720 x 42= £2 886 240 (cost generated from this reduction)

Option 2

Reducing £5 from the £30 EMA:

£5x 17 180= £85 900

£85 900 x 42= £3 607 800 (cost generated from this reduction)

Both these totals would provide the income needed to fund the cost needed.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-361
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/06830/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

27 August 2012

Thank you for your letter dated 6 August 2012 to Leighton Andrews AM, the Minister for Education and Skills, regarding the petition from students at Llandrillo College requesting a free Arriva bus pass to travel to and from College. I am replying as home to college transport falls within my portfolio.

The Welsh Government is committed to assisting students from low-income families with the costs associated with study. In addition to the Education Maintenance Allowance and the Assembly Learning Grant, the Welsh Government provides support for those students facing hardship through the Financial Contingency Fund.

It was with great interest that I read the students' proposals for funding the free Arriva bus pass scheme.

I am greatly impressed by the details set out in the students' proposed scheme. However, I take the view that the proposed scheme would not be workable from the practical point of view due to the lack of quantitative and qualitative information, such as an estimation of the costs of administering the scheme; full consideration of all the potential variations which could affect affordability; and comprehensive consultation with the body of students who are in receipt of the Educational Maintenance Allowance to allow for a full assessment of the impact of the scheme upon them.

Regrettably, the Welsh Government is not able to take forward or fund a scheme that would provide free travel for students and learners aged between 16-25 due to the tighter budgetary constraints to which we are subject and the background of competing demands which have to be taken into account.

However, given the clear merits of the students' proposals, I would advise that the students concerned raise the matter with the relevant local authorities, the College and commercial operators to establish whether it is feasible for a free Arriva bus pass to be provided.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CS', is positioned above the printed name.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities

Eitem 3.6

P-04-393 Grwp Gweithredu Ffordd Osgoi Llanymynech a Phant

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym wedi cael llond bol ar y sŵn, y llygredd, a'r ffaith na allwn gerdded gyda'n plant i'r ysgol, cerdded i'r siopau, na mynd a'n cŵn am dro ar hyd y ffordd. Ni fydd gwelliannau fel lledu'r ffordd yn gweithio yma. Cynlluniwyd y ffordd i ddechrau fel ffordd un lôn ar gyfer ceffylau a cherti. Mae llawer o'r tai ar y ddwy ochr yn agos iawn at y ffordd, ac mae nifer o lonydd yn ymuno â'r A483, sydd hefyd yn gwneud y ffordd yn anaddas i'w gwella. Teimlwn mai adeiladu ffordd osgoi yw'r unig ateb, a throi'r ffordd o Lynclys (sy'n hynod o beryglus) o gylch pentrefi Pant a Llanymynech a'i chysylltu â'r ffordd osgoi newydd ger Llandysilio. Hon yw'r brif gefnffordd rhwng Manceinion ac Abertawe, ac nid yw'n addas i'w diben. Mae llawer o Aelodau Seneddol ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad o blaid ein hymgyrch ac rydym yn benderfynol o gyflawni ein hamcan, a gweld dadl lawn yn cael ei chynnal ar y mater hwn yn y Cynulliad.

Rydym wedi cael llond bol ar y sŵn, y llygredd, a'r ffaith na allwn gerdded gyda'n plant i'r ysgol, cerdded i'r siopau, na mynd a'n cŵn am dro ar hyd y ffordd. Ni fydd gwelliannau fel lledu'r ffordd yn gweithio yma. Cynlluniwyd y ffordd i ddechrau fel ffordd un lôn ar gyfer ceffylau a cherti. Mae llawer o'r tai ar y ddwy ochr yn agos iawn at y ffordd, ac mae nifer o lonydd yn ymuno â'r A483, sydd hefyd yn gwneud y ffordd yn anaddas i'w gwella. Teimlwn mai adeiladu ffordd osgoi yw'r unig ateb, a throi'r ffordd o Lynclys (sy'n hynod o beryglus) o gylch pentrefi Pant a Llanymynech a'i chysylltu â'r ffordd osgoi newydd ger Llandysilio. Hon yw'r brif gefnffordd rhwng Manceinion ac Abertawe, ac nid yw'n addas i'w diben. Mae llawer o Aelodau Seneddol ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad o blaid ein hymgyrch ac rydym yn benderfynol o gyflawni ein hamcan, a gweld dadl lawn yn cael ei chynnal ar y mater hwn yn y Cynulliad.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Duncan Borthwick

Ysytiriwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 29 Mai 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 84



**From Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State**

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

**William Powell AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA**

Tel: 020 7944 3084
Fax: 020 7944 4521
E-Mail: mike.pennings@dftr.gov.uk
Web site: www.dft.gov.uk
Our Ref: MC/144666
Your Ref: P-04-393

- 2 JUL 2012

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 14 June to Justine Greening concerning a petition received by the National Assembly of Wales, calling for a bypass of the villages of Pant and Llanymynech, which straddle the English-Welsh border. I am replying as Minister responsible for the strategic roads in England.

The relative priority of the A483 Pant to Llanymynech Bypass was considered by the West Midlands Regional Transport Board as part of the previous Government's Regional Funding Allocation advice process in 2006.

The West Midlands Regional Transport Board advised the Government at the time that the proposal was a low priority due to its low cost benefit score and the modest contributions it was thought to make towards economic development and housing in the Region.

Following this decision, the Highways Agency completed a detailed review of the proposal to assess whether its cost could be reduced whilst maintaining a substantial proportion of its benefits. This study concluded that possible smaller scale solutions along this route would still offer poor value for money, and as such a decision was taken not to develop the proposals further.

In October 2010, the Department for Transport set out the outcomes of this Government's 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review, publishing details of its investment decisions for major road projects on the strategic road network.

As proposals for an A483 Pant to Llanyrnech Bypass had not been prioritised previously, the Department did not have a scheme to consider as part of the Spending Review, and there are therefore no plans to develop such a proposal at this time.

In preparing for future investment decisions, the Department will be considering the current and future forecast performance of the strategic road network, to identify and prioritise the scale of identified problems. It is also committed to work with regional and local stakeholders to ensure it considers their views on the transport problems faced, and the range of potential options for addressing them.

I would be happy to discuss the issues with the Welsh Government Minister for Local Government and Communities; officials in my Department and the Highways Agency are also willing to discuss the situation with their Welsh Government counterparts.

I have copied this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales, and to the Clerk to the Petitions Committee as requested.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Regards Mike', with a stylized initial 'MP' below it.

MIKE PENNING

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-393
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/06398/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

3rd
July 2012

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 2012 following a petition received requesting the reinstatement of plans for the bypass of the villages of Pant and Llanymynech.

It is not be feasible to bypass Llanymynech without bypassing Pant. As Llanymynech is in Wales and Pant in England, any proposals would be a joint initiative with the Highways Agency and the Welsh Government. A proposed scheme was led by the Highways Agency but was deferred following a reprioritisation of their Targeted Programme of improvements.

Following a review of the road conditions at this location, we have not identified any safety problems, however we will continue to monitor and undertake appropriate measures as are considered necessary.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Minister for Local Government and Communities

P-04-366 Cau Canolfan Ddydd Aberystwyth

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym ni, y rhai sydd wedi llofnodi isod, yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ystyried a yw'r cynlluniau i symud y gwasanaeth gofal dydd ar gyfer pobl hŷn sy'n agored i niwed o'r Ganolfan Ddydd, sef adeilad 30 mlwydd oed a adeiladwyd i bwrpas, i lawr isaf hen adeilad a oedd yn arfer cael ei ddefnyddio fel Neuadd y Dref yn Aberystwyth yn cydymffurfio â gofynion statudol a chanllawiau perthnasol. Mae'r Cyngor Sir yn bwriadu dymchwel y Ganolfan fel rhan o ddatblygiadau i adeiladu maes parcio, archfarchnad a siopau.

Prif ddeisebydd: Pamela Ellis

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 28 Chwefror 2012

Nifer y deisebwyr: 10 (Casglwyd deiseb gysylltiedig tua 6,000 o lofnodion)

Gwybodaeth ategol: Mae'r Ganolfan Ddydd bresennol yn gyfleuster tua 30 mlwydd oed a gafodd ei adeiladu i bwrpas. Mae wedi'i lleoli mewn safle cyfleus yng nghanol y dref, ac mae mynediad rhwydd iddi. Mae digon o le yno i ollwng pobl ac mae ger croesfan ddiogel. Mae'n adeilad braf a golau gyda digon o le i 90 cleient ag anghenion amrywiol. Mae nifer o ystafelloedd digon o faint yn yr adeilad. Mae'r ganolfan arfaethedig yn llai na hanner y maint ac ond yn addas ar gyfer 32 cleient mewn un ystafell fawr. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r ganolfan yn galluogi i ofalwyr cleientiaid anabl neu bobl sydd wedi cael strôc gael gofal seibiant dau neu dri diwrnod yr wythnos. Teimlwn y bydd symud y Ganolfan yn gwahaniaethu yn erbyn y grŵp gan fod y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol eisoes yn asesu a chyfeirio llai o bobl ar gyfer gofal seibiant. Mae'r Cyngor wedi cyfaddef y bydd toriadau.

Oherwydd anawsterau o ran cael mynediad at y llawr isaf, mae ramp serth wedi'i adeiladu tu allan, sy'n troi ar ongl o 180 hanner ffordd i lawr. Teimlwn yn gryf y bydd y ramp yn achosi problemau anferth i ofalwyr a phobl sy'n defnyddio cadeiriau olwyn pan fydd tywydd stormus neu pan fydd hi wedi rhewi. Mae nenfwd y llawr isaf yn isel ac mae colofn fawr ynghanol yr ystafell sy'n ei gwneud hi'n anodd symud cadeiriau olwyn a throliau. Nid oes llawer o olau naturiol am fod yr ystafell yn rhannol o dan ddaear ac mae'n rhaid mynd trwy lawer o ddrysau er mwyn cyrraedd y toiledau.

Mae cegin newydd ardderchog yn yr hen ganolfan sy'n darparu prydau da. Mae'r clwb cinio wythnosol, a oedd yn gynllun cynhwysiant cymdeithasol gwerthfawr, eisoes wedi dod i ben. Yn y dyfodol, bydd prydau'n cael eu paratoi oddi ar y safle ac yna eu cludo i'r ganolfan. Dim ond un ystafell fydd ar gael ar gyfer bwyta a'r holl weithgareddau eraill, felly bydd lle yn gyfyng

iawn. Mae Gwasanaeth Gwirfoddol y Merched yn lleol yn darparu diodydd a byrbrydau ar hyn o bryd, ond bydd hynny'n dod i ben.

Mae gan y ganolfan bresennol ystafell ymolchi fawr gyda theclyn codi a chyfleusterau golchi dillad, sydd yn gyfleusterau gwerthfawr. Bydd gan y ganolfan newydd gawod wedi'i gosod mewn tŷ bach, er mwyn gallu rhoi cymorth wrth ymolchi, gyda'r drws yn agor i ardal gyffredin. Hwnnw fydd yr unig dŷ bach sy'n addas ar gyfer pobl anabl, felly bydd yn anodd i gleient anabl ddefnyddio'r tŷ bach pan fydd cleient arall yn cael cawod. Os bydd y cyfleuster newydd ddim ond yn gallu gwasanaethu 32 cleient bydd y bobl sydd angen gofal seibiant yn cael blaenoriaeth dros y bobl hŷn sy'n gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i ddod i'r ganolfan i fwynhau cymdeithasu, cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau, cael bath a phryd da o fwyd. Mae gan y ganolfan bresennol ardd braf gyda seddi, digon o lefydd parcio, man i ollwng pobl ac mae mynediad i'r adeilad yn rhwydd i bawb.

Mae'r ganolfan bresennol ar gael gyda'r hwyr ar gyfer grwpiau pobl hŷn. Mae'r grŵp gofal arthritis yn pryderu na fyddant yn gallu ymdopi gyda defnyddio'r ramp yn y tywyllwch ar gyfer eu cyfarfodydd gyda'r hwyr. Mae'r ganolfan newydd ger troad peryglus ar brif ffordd brysur. Roedd y bobl oedd yn defnyddio'r llawr isaf pan oedd yr adeilad yn Neuadd y Dref yn cwyno ei fod yn rhy boeth yn yr haf ac yn oer a llaith yn y gaeaf. Mae'r system wresogi wedi'i gwella, ond ni fydd y ffenestri codi yn cael eu newid ac ni fydd aerdymheru yn cael ei osod. Er bod y Cyngor Sir wedi gwneud ymdrech i ymateb i'n pryderon, credwn yn gryf bod y ganolfan newydd arfaethedig yn hollol anaddas ac yn llawer israddol na'r ganolfan bresennol. Hoffwn ychwanegu bod y Cyngor yn cyfaddef na chynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad priodol. Dyna'r rheswm y cafodd y garfan bwysu hon ei chreu.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Ellen ap Gwynn
Arweinydd Cyngor Sir Ceredigion
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion SY23 3UE

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

P-04-366
11 Gorfennaf 2012

Annwyl

Diolch am gynnal ymweliad diweddar y Pwyllgor Deisebau â'r ganolfan ddydd newydd yn Aberystwyth. Roeddem yn gwerthfawrogi'n fawr y ffaith eich bod chi a'ch cydweithwyr wedi neilltuo amser o'ch amserlenni prysur i drafod y cyfleuster newydd â ni.

Yn amgaeedig mae nodyn a gymerwyd gan y Clerc ar ddiwrnod yr ymweliad, sy'n trafod rhai o'r pryderon a fynegwyd gan ddeisebwyr a'r defnyddwyr gwasanaeth y siaradwyd â nhw. Fel y gwelwch, mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- Mynediad i'r ganolfan: diffyg croesfan i gerddwyr neu gilfan y tu allan i'r adeilad; diffyg mynedfa â chysgod i'r adeilad; hyd y ramp y mae'n rhaid i gerddwyr ei ddefnyddio; diffyg gwasanaeth bws cyhoeddus i'r ganolfan.
- Y ffaith bod y ganolfan bellach ar agor i gleifion sydd wedi'u hatgyfeirio yn unig, sy'n effeithio ar gyfleoedd ymgysylltu cymdeithasol y defnyddwyr gwasanaeth
- Diffyg cyfleusterau ymolchi.

Byddai'r Pwyllgor yn ddiolchgar pe gallech flaenoriaethau'r materion hyn yn y misoedd i ddod er mwyn lliniaru rhai o bryderon y deisebwyr.

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8393
E-bost / Email: William.powell@cymru.gov.uk

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

Yn ystod ein hymweliad, trafodwyd y posibilrwydd o gynnal arolwg wedi'i ddilysu'n allanol o'r gwasanaeth, yn ddelfrydol gan AGGCC, y gwnaethoch ei groesawu. Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe gallech gadarnhau p'un a fydd arolwg o'r fath yn cael ei gynnal cyn diwedd y flwyddyn.

Diolch i chi eto am ystyried y mater hwn.

Yn gywir



William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

Amg. Nodyn o ymweliad rapporteur

Copi i Aelodau Etholaethol a Rhanbarthol

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Ellen ap Gwynn
Leader of Ceredigion County Council
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion SY23 3UE

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

P-04-366
11 July 2012

Dear *Ellen*

Thank you for hosting the Petitions Committee's recent visit to the new day centre facility in Aberystwyth. We very much appreciated you and your colleagues taking time out of your busy schedules to discuss the new facility with us.

Please find enclosed a note taken by the Clerk on the day of the visit, which flags up some of the concerns expressed by petitioners and the service users we spoke to. As you will see, these include:

- Access to the centre: the lack of a pedestrian crossing or layby outside the building; the lack of a covered entrance to the building; the length of the ramp that walking service users have to negotiate; the lack of a public bus service to the centre
- The fact that the centre is now open to referred patients only, which impacts on the social engagement opportunities of the service users
- The lack of bathing facilities.

The Committee would be grateful if you could prioritise these issues in the coming months in order to alleviate some of the concerns of the petitioners.

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8393
E-bost / Email: William.powell@wales.gov.uk

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

During our visit, we discussed the potential for an externally validated inspection of the service to be carried out, ideally by CSSIW, which you welcomed. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether such an inspection will take place within the year

Thank you again for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William".

William Powell AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

Encs. Note of rapporteur visit

CC Constituency and Regional Members

Petitions Committee rapporteur visit in connection with

P-04-366 Closure of Aberystwyth Day Centre

Background

The rapporteur visit took place in Aberystwyth on 15 June 2012. Members of the Petitions Committee met with petitioners at St Paul's Church Hall, Aberystwyth. Following that meeting, Members met with representatives of the Ceredigion County Council and attendees at the new day care centre facility in the Town Hall, Aberystwyth. The meetings are recorded in this note.

Meeting with Petitioners

Present:

- William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee
- Bethan Jenkins AM, Petitions Committee member
- Elin Jones AM (observer)
- Frank Hogg
- Gerald Morgan
- Joyce Evans
- Pamela Hughes
- Gwenda Williams
- Ken Thomas
- Martin Shewring
- Pam Ellis
- Eurwen Booth
- Richard Spencer
- Abigail Phillips, Committee Clerk
- Alex Phillips, AMSS

Gerald Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Petitions Committee for considering the petition and for visiting Aberystwyth in order to see the new day care centre.

The petitioners expressed their regret that the Petitions Committee members would not be visiting the Park Avenue Day Care Centre which had been closed and replaced by the Town Hall Day Care Centre. Petitioners felt that it would have been useful for the Committee to gain a clear idea of the space available at the old centre and the gardens surrounding the building.

Petitioners raised a number of concerns. These were:

- A need for clarity with regard to the evacuation of service users at the day centre in the event of a fire. The Committee was asked to seek assurances that a personal evacuation

plan was in place for all users and that a fire officer's report had taken account of the mobility needs of service users

- There is no pedestrian crossing or layby outside the building to enable service users to access the centre safely. Service Users were previously taken undercover to a door, but access is now via a long ramp that is open to the elements
- There is no public bus service to the centre at present
- No more than 32 Services Users can access the Centre at any one time, which is fewer than the 90 – 100 that the old centre allowed. Petitioners have been told that the number of people wishing to access the service has declined, but they remain concerned about the reasons for that reduction and question whether everyone who wants to access the service is able to
- Petitioners felt that no proper consultation was carried out ahead of the closure of the Park Avenue Day Care Centre
- People who had previously met with friends at the Park Avenue Day Care Centre on a Wednesday are now unable to attend the new Centre as it is open to patients on referral only
- There is no bathing facility available in the new centre, only a combined shower and disabled toilet room. There was an expectation that patients who could not be bathed at home would be taken to an alternative location to be bathed, but this has not happened. It was reported that one patient had been unable to access a bath or shower for the 6 weeks since the closure of the old centre.
- One service users was unable to use the new Day Care Centre with his wife as he could not walk the length of the access ramp. This has resulted in a loss of 15 hours of respite for his carer and means that the couple cannot socialise together.
- Petitioners pointed out that socialising was an important aspect of life for individuals who were being cared for at home. It is also important that carers are able to maintain a social life.

Petitioners told the Committee that they would like an alternative centre to be provided. The old Drill Hall had been offered as an alternative to the Park Avenue site, but there had been no consultation on that and the offer had since been withdrawn.

Petitioners also told the Committee that the Council's decision three years ago to close the Day Care Centre with no alternative provision could have been 'called in' but that too much time had now elapsed for that to happen.

Petitioners reported that they had been told by Council Officers that the Day Care Centre was non-statutory provision and so could be withdrawn altogether. The petitioners feel that as the Day Care Centre is paid for by the over-stretched Social Services which encourages care at home, the funding may be under threat. The petitioners feel that the centre should be paid for from the Health budget.

One petitioner described the care that people receive at home from visiting professionals as rushed in comparison with the relaxed atmosphere of a day care centre at which service users benefit from the varied skills of a larger work force and the company of others.

One petitioner suggested that costs were not an issue for the Council but if they were, the Centre could be run by a charity in an alternative location. Examples of such an approach in the Netherlands were cited.

Petitioners felt that the decision to close Park Avenue Day Centre would have been overturned by the newly elected council, but for the binding contracts that they are a party to. As Welsh Government is part funder of the Mill Street Regeneration that has led to the need to close Park Avenue Day Care Centre, petitioners feel that the Welsh Government have a responsibility to take action, perhaps by 'calling in' the decision.

Finally, petitioners called for an independent assessment of the current centre. Any such assessment should include consideration of the experience of carers and service users along with the effects of the changes on those who had used Park Avenue Day Care Centre but felt they could not use the new centre.

Meeting with representatives of Ceredigion County Council

Present:

- William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee
- Bethan Jenkins AM, Petitions Committee member
- Elin Jones AM (observer)
- Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of the Council
- Catherine Hughes, Cabinet Member
- Shirley Steen, Officer in Charge of the Day Centre
- Sue Darnbrook, Assistant Director (Adults & Mental Health)
- Alan Baily, Architect
- Peter Gough, Health & Safety
- Abigail Phillips, Committee Clerk
- Alex Phillips, AMSS

The Leader of the Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair of the Petitions Committee thanked the Leader for honouring the meeting date, given the pressures on her time following the recent floods. Sympathies were offered to the victims of the floods.

The Chair explained that the Committee had received a petition relating to the new Day Care Centre, and had met with petitions to hear their concerns.

The Council Leader explained that decisions made before the elections relating to the Mill Street Area development were binding, and carried a heavy financial penalty should the council now reverse the decision. The decision had been made under European Procurement Rules and used a matrix for bidder selection. Following selection, the developers chosen requested a bigger footprint of land for development that included both the Park Avenue Day Care Centre and the Drill Hall, which had been the council's preferred site for Day Care provision. It was then that the library site was identified for the Day Care provision. It was acknowledged that there had been insufficient

consultation and that no alternatives had been sought. Although the Day Care provision is non-statutory, the Leader of the Council made it clear that the provision would continue. Some service users had been distressed by newspaper reports speculating on the future and current provision of care at the new centre. Service users had told Councillors that they preferred to move than have no provision at all.

The Assistant Director (Adults and Mental Health) told the Committee that falling rolls for Day Care Centres are typical across Councils as service users seek alternative provision through direct payments and community based services if they don't need the specialist care provided at centres like that at the Town Hall, and because people are typically remaining healthier for longer. Only one gentleman had not transferred to the new centre and this is because he has chosen not to.

The Football Club now provides a luncheon club for those service users who used to access the drop in sessions on Wednesdays. The sessions are reported to be well attended and growing in popularity.

The integration of the specialist Day Care Centre in the basement of the Town Hall and the library on the Ground and upper floor of the Town Hall was felt to go some way towards integrating older people with other members of the community. It was also felt that the new centre is more intimate and encourages people to converse and use the library facilities. Two senior citizen groups were using the centre on a regular basis for meetings.

The lack of a public bus service was recognised as an issue. The Council is hoping that a service bus will soon be serving the Town Hall.

The entrance ramp that is open to the elements had also been identified as an issue. The Council intends to create a covered entrance to the side of the Town Hall that will enable service users to alight from buses and enter the Day Care Centre while staying undercover.

The Petitions Committee shared petitioners' concerns regarding the combined shower and disabled toilet but staff reassured the Committee that no patient had needed to access the toilet while the shower had been in use. Showers were planned to take place while other service users were in activities and unlikely to ask to use the toilet. There were alternative disabled toilets elsewhere in the building for wheelchair users, although very few wheelchair users attended the Centre. Alternative toilets for ambulant users were available.

Council officials told the Committee that, where possible, bathing should take place away from the Day Care Centre as it was not the right environment or setting for such levels of personal care. Those service users who need aids or adaptations in order to be able to bathe or shower at home were being assessed and provided with equipment or, where appropriate, had been offered a bath at an alternative venue. The Committee was told that only one service user was still awaiting a bath, but that a bath at an alternative venue had been offered to her.

The Committee was told that the architect had worked with building control and fire officers during the design, construction and post-construction stage to ensure that the needs of users were taken into account. The Health and Safety assessment of the building showed that provision for a fire emergency was over and above the standards required.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that a review of the provision would take place around the end of April next year, and that she would welcome that to be carried out by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales as regulating body. Service user comments are being regularly gathered and acted on in the meantime. A service users group will be formed to enable attendees at the centre to shape the service.

The Committee agreed to send those present a note of the meeting, and to keep them informed of the Committee's consideration of the petition.

The Committee was then given a tour of the library facilities and Day Care Centre before chatting with service users and sharing a meal with them.

Feedback from service users

The Committee was aware that not all service users were present on the day of the visit, although the centre was full to capacity on that day. Members sensed a certain amount of anxiety from some service users who felt that they had to 'put up' with the new centre or risk losing it altogether.

Service users praised the staff, activities and quality of food at the centre.

Some service users said that they missed the bathing facility.

The lack of a covered entrance was problematic with users having to sit in wet clothes after getting wet on the way in. There was a fear that this would get worse in the winter months.

Some users asked the Committee to do what they could to re-open the old facility as it was just sitting empty.

Some users seemed to feel that they had been treated as unimportant because they had been moved to the basement facility.

One lady felt that alternatives for bathing should have been put in place before the move to the Town Hall.

Committee Service

June 2012

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION

ADRAN GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL

...yn gofalu i wneud gwahaniaeth

A. Parry Davies
Cyfarwyddwr
Director



CEREDIGION County Council

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

...taking care to make a difference

Minaeron, Rhiw Goch, Aberaeron, SA46 0DY

☎ 01545 572616

Fax 01545 572619

Ken Redman
Inspector
CSSIW, South West Region
Government Buildings
Picton Terrace
CARMARTHEN
SA31 3BT

Dyddiad
Date

30 July 2012

Gofynnwch am
Please ask for

Mrs S Darnbrook

Llinell Uniongyrchol
Direct line

01545 572694

Fy nghyf
My ref

SD/JVJ

Eich cyf
Your ref

e-bost
e-mail

Dear Ken

I have received a letter from William Powell AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee of Welsh Government, following a visit the committee made to the new day centre in Aberystwyth.

In the letter he asks for "an externally validated Inspection of the service to be carried out, ideally by CSSIW".

I would be grateful if you would give this request your consideration and respond directly to Mr Powell on this matter at William Powell AC/AM, Chair, Petitions Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CARDIFF, CF99 1NA.

Yours sincerely

S.L. Darnbrook.

Mrs Sue Darnbrook
Assistant Director Adult and Mental Health Services

cc Mr William Powell



Mr W. Powell AC/AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Our ref: KR/ WP

Your ref:

Date: 6 August 2012

Dear Mr Powell

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales has received a letter from Sue Darnbrook, Assistant Director Adult and Mental Health Services in Ceredigion, in which she forwards a request from yourselves following a visit to the new day centre in Aberystwyth that 'an externally validated inspection of the service to be carried out, ideally by CSSIW'.

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate is an operationally independent division of the Welsh Government. The powers and functions of the Inspectorate are enabled through legislation including the Care Standards Act 2000, its associated regulations and national minimum standards.

With regard to the provision of care and support to adults (people over the age of 18) the Care Standards Act 2000 empowers CSSIW with the responsibility to register and inspect care homes, nurses agencies and domiciliary care agencies.

The definition of a care home is an establishment that provides both accommodation and personal care for persons who are or have been ill, who have or have had a mental disorder, persons who are disabled or infirm and persons who are or have been dependent on alcohol or drugs.

The definition of a nurses agency is that of an employment agency or employment business which consists of or includes supplying, or providing services for the purposes of supplying registered nurses to individuals or establishments.

A domiciliary care agency is defined as an undertaking which consists of the provision of personal care in their own homes for persons who by illness, infirmity or disability are unable to provide it for themselves without assistance.

AGGCC
Rhanbarth De-orllewin Cymru
Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth
Heol Picton
Caerfyrddin
SA31 3BT
www.aggcc.org.uk

☎ 01267 245160
☎ 01267 245140
✉ cssiw.southwest@wales.gsi.gov.uk

CSSIW
South West Region
Government Buildings
Picton Terrace
Carmarthen
SA31 3BT
www.cssiw.org.uk

Day centres are not regulated settings as set out by the Care Standards Act 2000 and as such CSSIW do not have any legal powers in the registration or inspection of these schemes. Any quality assurance of such a facility must be that of Ceredigion County Council.

Yours sincerely



Ken Redman
Inspector
South West Region

P-03-263 Rhestru Parc y Strade

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth i roi statws rhestredig i Barc y Strade, er mwyn diogelu treftadaeth y maes rygbi byd enwog a'r eicon diwylliannol hwn i bobl Cymru.

Cynigwyd gan: Mr V Jones

Y dyddiad yr ystyriodd y Pwyllgor y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf: Tachwedd 2009

Nifer y llofnodion: 4,383

Deiseb i restru Parc y Strade

Cafodd y ddeiseb i restru Parc y Strade ei hysbrydoli gan alwadau "*i wneud rhywbeth*" i ddiogelu treftadaeth y lleoliad enwog hwn. Mae'n arwyddocaol bod y galwadau hyn wedi parhau wedi i'r Scarlets symud ar draws Llanelli i'w stadiwm newydd. Mae'n amlwg bod Parc y Strade yn fwy na dim ond stadiwm lle byddai pobl yn gwyllo rygbi - mae'n rhan o ddiwylliant lleol ac o dreftadaeth genedlaethol.

Gellir diffinio eicon diwylliannol fel unrhyw beth sy'n hawdd ei adnabod ac, yn gyffredinol, mae'n cynrychioli gwrthrych neu gysyniad sydd â chryn arwyddocâd diwylliannol i grŵp diwylliannol eang. Ymhen amser, gall fod â statws arbennig fel rhywbeth sy'n cynrychioli grŵp arbennig o bobl neu gyfnod arbennig mewn hanes.

Mae Parc y Strade yn symbol o gefnogaeth cymuned Gymreig i'w chlwb rygbi yn yr ugeinfed ganrif - y mae, heb amheuaeth, yn eicon diwylliannol.

Mae Parc y Strade yn adnabyddus drwy'r byd i gyd, nid yn unig oherwydd gorchestion y rhai a fu'n chwarae ar y cae enwog, ond hefyd oherwydd cefnogaeth angerddol y rhai a fyddai'n heidio i'r eisteddle a'r teras yn ystod y gemau, ac yn heidio ar y cae ei hun yn ystod hanner amser ac ar ôl y chwiban olaf.

Daeth y gefnogaeth honno'n enwog drwy'r byd fel cefnogaeth nodweddiadol Gymreig, a chryfhawyd y ddelwedd gan ganeuon yn dathlu buddugoliaethau enwog ym Mharc y Strade, fel cân "9-3" Max Boyce am fuddugoliaeth 1972 dros y Crysau Duon - y tro diwethaf i unrhyw dîm clwb eu trechu. Mae'r geiriau "All roads led to Stradey Park", "The day the pubs ran dry" ac "I was there" i gyd yn ein hatgoffa o'r diwrnod hwnnw ym Mharc y Strade pan gafodd y capten, Delme Thomas, ei gario oddi ar y cae gan ei gyd chwaraewyr, drwy ganol miloedd o gefnogwyr.

Pan sonnir am Barc y Strade, y darlun a ddaw i'r meddwl yw gweithwyr yn gorffen eu sifft yn y gweithfeydd tunplat, y dociau neu'r pyllau glo cyn

chwarae gêm o flaen miloedd o'u cydweithwyr o Tinopolis. Gosodwyd y sosbenni enwog ar byst y Strade i gyfeirio'n uniongyrchol at y prif gynnyrch a allforiwyd o Lanelli – tunplat – ac yn enwedig y gwaith “stampio” lai na milltir o Barc y Strade lle byddai sosbenni'n cael eu cynhyrchu a'u hallforio i bob cwr o'r byd.

Roedd Parc y Strade yn cael ei ystyried bob amser fel cae 'mwyaf Cymreig' Cymru, gyda'r sgorfwrdd Cymraeg a'r caneuon Cymraeg y byddai'r dorf yn eu canu. Daeth 'Sosban Fach' yn adnabyddus drwy'r byd i gyd wedi i'r cefnogwyr ei mabwysiadu a'i chanu oherwydd y 'sosbenni' ar y pyst. Cynhaliwyd cymanfa ganu cyn y gêm yn erbyn y Crysau Duon ym 1972.

Fel cae rygbi a oedd yn galon i'r gymuned, cynhaliwyd nifer o ddigwyddiadau ar wahân i rygbi ym Mharc y Strade, gan gynnwys nifer o chwaraeon eraill, a byddai noson Guto Ffowc a thân gwylt yn cael ei chynnal yno bob blwyddyn.

Ar 15 Tachwedd 2007, cynhaliwyd angladd Ray Gravell ar gael Parc y Strade. Roedd hwn yn ddigwyddiad unigryw yn hanes Cymru ac fe'i disgrifiwyd yn y wasg fel 'angladd gwladol Cymreig'. Daeth 6000 o bobl i'r stadiwm i alaru, gan gynnwys pobl flaenllaw o'r byd gwleidyddol, y byd diwylliannol a'r byd chwaraeon yng Nghymru ac roedd miloedd eto'n llenwi'r strydoedd y tu allan. Cafodd lluniau o'r arch ar y cae, a Cheidwad y Cledd wrth ei hochr, ynghyd â'r holl bobl a fu'n talu teyrnged iddo, eu darlledu'n fyw ar S4C.

Heb amheuaeth, mae arwyddocâd hanesyddol a diwylliannol pwysig i Barc y Strade o safbwynt Cymru. Gwelwyd sawl brwydr ar y cae, ac roedd yn symbol penodol o angerdd y Cymry dros rygbi yn yr ugeinfed ganrif. Llwyddwyd i gasglu dros 3500 o lofnodion ac mae'r ffaith bod hon yn ddeiseb sy'n ymwneud â threftadaeth yn hytrach na rygbi yn ychwanegu at arwyddocâd hynny. Casglwyd y ddeiseb ar gownteri siopau drwy sir Gaerfyrddin a, heb fawr ddim cyhoeddusrwydd, cafwyd cefnogaeth gref gan fod pobl yn credu y dylid achub cae Parc y Strade i nodi'i leoliad a'i dreftadaeth.

Er mai teitl y ddeiseb yw 'Rhestru Parc y Strade', a byddai llawer yn hoffi gweld y stadiwm gyfan yn cael ei hachub, derbynir yn gyffredinol y byddai rhestru Parc y Strade yn golygu rhestru'r cae a'i gadw fel man agored fel rhan o unrhyw ddatblygiad. Mae'r cae hwn, lle gwelwyd sawl brwydr yn yr oes fodern, mor unigryw oherwydd y cyfan sydd wedi digwydd arno; buddugoliaethau'r tîm rygbi wrth gwrs ac 'angladd gwladol' bythgofiadwy Ray Gravell, ond hefyd yr atgofion am yr holl gefnogwyr a fyddai'n heidio ar y cae yn ystod hanner amser ac ar ôl y chwiban olaf i chwarae yn yr union fan lle'r oedd eu harwyr newydd fod yn sefyll.

I restru cae chwarae, mae'n debyg y bydd angen creu categori rhestru newydd neu newid un o'r categorïau presennol. Wrth i bwysigrwydd y diwydiant ymwelwyr gynyddu o hyd yng Nghymru, mae angen diogelu lleoliadau sy'n bwysig i dreftadaeth fodern Cymru, fel Parc y Strade, felly mae

angen i'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol roi cyfarwyddyd i Cadw i greu neu i newid categori rhestru ar gyfer meysydd chwarae.

Cyn gynted ag y caiff safle fel Parc y Strade ei golli fel rhan o gynllun datblygu, mae'n mynd yn gwbl ddiwerth. Hwyrach y bydd ambell ymwelydd yn cael ei ddenu i ddarllen panel gwybodaeth neu blac glas ger y safle, ond go brin y byddai hynny o unrhyw fudd i'r economi leol. Mae angen gwarchod lleoedd fel Parc y Strade i ganiatáu iddynt gael eu marchnata fel safleoedd treftadaeth Cymru fodern ar gyfer yr unfed ganrif ar hugain. Mae ymwelwyr am fedru troedio'r cae, nid dim ond darllen amdano.

Yn ogystal â'r 3500+ o lofnodion, mae grŵp Facebook, sydd â dros 520 o aelodau, nifer o gyrff lleol, gan gynnwys Cyngor Tref Llanelli a Chyngor Gwledig Llanelli, yn cefnogi amcanion y ddeiseb, sef gwarchod cae Parc y Strade. Nid oes gan yr un o'r cyrff hyn, fodd bynnag, y pŵer i wneud hynny.

Cafwyd cefnogaeth ryngwladol i'r ddeiseb, yn ogystal â chefnogaeth o rannau eraill o Gymru a'r DU, gan ddangos yn glir fod pwysigrwydd cenedlaethol ynghlwm wrth Parc y Strade. Yn lleol, mae'r ddeiseb hefyd wedi cael cefnogaeth cyn fawrion timau Llanelli, Cymru a'r Llewod fel Delme Thomas a Phil Bennett.

Mae gwefan yn cefnogi'r ddeiseb i'w gweld os ewch i www.stradeparkpetition.co.uk. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael hefyd, o hanes Ystâd Stradey yn rhoi darn o dir o fewn ei waliau terfyn i greu'r cae ym 1879 hyd at gau'r stadiwm ym mis Hydref 2008.



Mr W Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Taylor Wimpey South Wales
Ground Floor
Eastern Business Park
Wern Fawr Lane
St Mellons
Cardiff CF3 5EA

T: 02920 534700
F: 02920 534777

www.taylorwimpey.co.uk

12th December 2011

Dear Mr Powell

Re: P-03-263 List Stradey Park

Thank you for your letter of 1st December.

Since 2009 the issues you raise in your letter have been considered carefully by Taylor Wimpey and the Council as part of the planning process. The preparatory works undertaken pursuant to the permission have resulted in all of the buildings at the stadium being removed, and so has the pitch. There is therefore nothing left to preserve even if the Council had been minded to offer any form of listing protection when first asked. I am sorry that this is not the result that the petitioners will have wanted but there has been extensive scrutiny of the proposed redevelopment and its consequences over the years and all options considered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Simmons'.

Keith Simmons
Managing Director

Taylor Wimpey UK Limited
Registered Number:
1392762 England and Wales.
Registered Office:
Gate House, Turnpike Road
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire
HP12 3NR

Taylor Wimpey South Wales is a
division of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd

P-04-322 Galw am ryddhau gfael Cadw ar eglwysi yng Nghymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i bwysu ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ymchwilio i mewn i ran Cadw yn y broses o roi caniatâd cynllunio i adeiladau rhestredig er mwyn gwneud gwaith addasu i eglwysi. Mae hyn yn rhwystro cynulleidfaoedd gweithgar a hyfyw rhag defnyddio adeiladau rhestredig yng Nghymru a, thrwy hynny, cânt eu cadw mewn cyflwr o inertia pensaernïol: nid ydynt yn gallu elwa ar ddatblygiadau modern mewn deunyddiau adeiladu, ac mae'n anodd i eglwysi wneud y newidiadau sy'n angenrheidiol er mwyn iddynt wasanaethau'r genhedlaeth nesaf a'r gymuned leol.

Cynigwyd gan: Graham John

Nifer y llofnodion: 147

Ystyriwyd am y tro cyntaf: Mehefin 2011

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-322
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05570/12

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

12 June 2012

petition@wales.gov.uk

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 19 April seeking Cadw's comments on the petition numbered P-04-322. I am replying as Cadw is within my portfolio responsibilities and has no legal identity separate from the Welsh Ministers.

I provided a comprehensive response to the Petitions Committee on 19 July 2011 and my reply reflects the position of my officials in Cadw and covers the issues raised by the petitioner in his supporting paper.

Works to listed buildings need to be supported with strong justification which should include an examination of any less intrusive alternatives, where these are available. Achieving a proper balance between the aims / mission of the church and conservation can often require negotiation to reach a successful conclusion and I appreciate that this can become frustrating where complex matters present themselves. However, if an applicant feels that an unreasonable decision has been taken, there is a right of appeal to the Welsh Ministers.

The general steer of current policy and circular guidance endeavours to promote a balance between the needs of energy efficiency, sustainability and the protection of the historic environment. However, I will ensure that the issues raised by the petitioner are considered as part of the development and implementation of the new Heritage Bill in 2014-15. Formal consultation on proposals for a Bill will begin in early 2013, but the issues will be explored further in the forthcoming thematic Bill workshops and my Heritage Conference on 19 July.

Huw Lewis

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.huw.lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-381 Adfer Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i asesu treftadaeth bensaernïol Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru ac i sicrhau bod y clwydfannau ystlumod sydd yno yn cael eu gwarchod. Ein dymuniad yw bod yr adeilad gwirioneddol unigryw hwn yn cael ei gadw a'i adfer ar gyfer y genedl.

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Gwybodaeth ategol: Mae Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru yn enghraifft dda o loches Fictorianaidd a gynlluniwyd gan y pensaer Thomas Full James. Agorodd ym 1848 a chaeodd ei ddrysau ym 1995. Gyda 160 mlynedd o hanes o fewn ei furiau, mae'r bygythiad i'r adeilad yn un real, ond dylai Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru gynt rannu ei stori drist, gyda'r nod o gadw'r safle 126 acer hwn, i warchod y cyd-destun hanesyddol ar gyfer y cenedlaethau sydd i ddod. Yn ystod y cyfnod ar ôl gwaredu'r ysbyty, cafwyd dilyniant o berchnogion, ac mae rhai ohonynt wedi cyfrannu tuag at ddirywiad yr adeiladau, gan gymryd asedau oddi yno a dymchwel adeiladau rhestredig yn groes i Ddeddf Cynllunio (Adeiladau Rhestredig ac Ardaloedd Cadwraeth) 1990. Bu tarfu ar glwydfannau ystlumod, ac mae hynny'n groes i Ddeddf Bywyd Gwyllt a Chefn Gwlad 1981.

Cafwyd problemau niferus o ran gwaredu ac ail-ddatblygu'r ysbyty Fictorianaidd hwn a'r adeiladau sy'n gysylltiedig ag ef, ers dros 15 mlynedd. Disgrifiwyd yr adeilad unwaith gan asiantaeth amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru, Cadw, fel yr ysbyty pwrpasol mwyaf gwych i gael ei godi yng Nghymru erioed. Fodd bynnag, gallai'r awdurdod lleol gael ei roi mewn perygl ariannol dirfawr pe bai'n cael y safle tra bo cyflwr yr adeiladau yn dal i ddirywio, oni bai ei fod wedi cytuno ar amrywiaeth hyfyw o ddefnyddiau newydd a bod ganddynt bartner datblygu i ddarparu'r cynllun. Byddai o werth archwilio hanes y broses waredu hyd yma, gan fod yr hanes hwnnw'n tynnu sylw at nifer o wersi defnyddiol iawn i'w dysgu, sy'n berthnasol yn ehangach.

Cyflwynwyd gan: Paul Sharrock, restoration4nwh

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 27 Mawrth 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 29

PET(4)-13-12 : Tuesday 2 October 2012

Note of Petitions Committee meeting with petitioner, 1 July 2012

Related petition: P-04-381 Restoration for North Wales Hospital:

'We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to assess the architectural heritage of the North Wales Hospital and to ensure that the bat roosts located there are protected. We would like this truly unique building to be preserved and restored for the nation.'

Present:

William Powell AM (Chair)

Bethan Jenkins AM

Joyce Watson AM

Paul Sharrock, petitioner

Abigail Phillips, Clerk

Sarita Marshall, Deputy Clerk

Annette Millett, Committee Support

1. The Chair thanked the petitioners for meeting the Committee and invited them to tell the Committee about the petition.
2. The petitioners told the Committee:
 - a. The hospital was built in 1842 and was funded by public donation.
 - b. They are concerned that a demolition company is undertaking work at the site and felt that demolition should be avoided if at all possible.
 - c. They were confused as to why the U shaped area at the front of the building was being targeted in the current work programme. They wanted to know what would happen to the other buildings, in particular the nurses' home and chapel.
 - d. There was general confusion regarding any future plans for the site.
 - e. They were aware that asset stripping had been carried out by previous owners and that the timber framed building could now be unsafe as it had been unprotected from the elements for a period of time. A building survey had been carried out prior to a steel roof being put in place to replace roofs that had been stripped of lead. The group were supportive of the steel roof being put in place.
 - f. A bat survey had been carried out, but no follow up survey had taken place.
 - g. The building is crucial in a national context and should be protected.
 - h. There is a lack of transparency from the council and petitioners felt that communication had broken down. The petitioners would like to know what will be retained of the building and details of its future management.
 - i. A community use for the building would be welcomed, and the petitioners stated that they would not like to see the building used for housing, as there is not a need for more housing in the area.

- j. The group dis-associated itself with individuals who had been breaking in to the hospital to take photographs.
 - k. They recognised that the council are taking a 'brave' approach to the issues affecting the building and emphasised that they do not want to work against the council. They feel that Cadw could helpfully be brought in to assist.
 - l. A preservation group has shown an interest in taking on the grounds of the building, but the idea has not progressed.
3. The petitioners asked the Committee to seek transparency from the council on the issue and to try to ensure that as many of the buildings as possible were saved, even if it was just the façade.
 4. Paul Sharrock loaned a book on the hospital to the Committee. The Committee thanked him for it and promised to return it soon.
 5. The Committee thanked the petitioners for their time and agreed to pass on contact details for Save Britain's Heritage.

Committee Service

July 2012

PET(4)-13-12 : Tuesday 2 October 2012

Note of Petitions Committee visit to the North Wales Hospital, 1 July 2012

Related petition: P-04-381 Restoration for North Wales Hospital:

'We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to assess the architectural heritage of the North Wales Hospital and to ensure that the bat roosts located there are protected. We would like this truly unique building to be preserved and restored for the nation.'

Present:

William Powell AM (Chair)

Bethan Jenkins AM

Joyce Watson AM

Graham Boase, Head of Planning, Regeneration & Regulatory Services, Denbighshire County Council

Heather Cafearo, Principal Quantity Surveyor, Denbighshire County Council

Edward Holland, Senior Projects Adviser, Prince's Regeneration Trust

Abigail Phillips, Clerk

Sarita Marshall, Deputy Clerk

Annette Millett, Committee Support

1. The Chair thanked Graham Boase, Heather Cafearo and Edward Holland for meeting the Committee and expressed disappointment that it could not enter the hospital building for health and safety reasons.
2. The Chair explained that the purpose of the Committee's visit was to find out more about the building and the work that is being done to save it so that the Committee can give further consideration to petition P-04-381 Restoration of North Wales Hospital.
3. The Committee welcomed the opportunity to view the outside of the building and to find out more about the council's approach to the issue.
4. Graham Boase, Heather Cafearo and Edward Holland told the Committee:
 - a. The oldest part of the hospital was built in 1840. Other buildings had been added later and some were of a lower quality than the original building. The whole site was Grade 2 listed
 - b. The building was used as an asylum until the mid-1990s, when it was closed to patients and sold at auction. At its peak, 1500 patients were accommodated in the hospital.
 - c. The new owner of the buildings sold it on a few years later after carrying out asset stripping, and selling off some of the land on the estate.
 - d. The buildings are now owned by a company registered in the Virgin Islands.
 - e. The company put a planning application in four years ago which was agreed by the council. The company was to sell off some land for housing, which would provide the required funds to restore the listed building to a reasonable standard, the cost of which was estimated to be £4.8 million at that time. The council required a legal agreement

that the funds released by the sale of land for housing would be used to restore the listed buildings, and a bank Bond to underwrite the agreement.

- f. After nearly three years, the legality of the agreement and Bond were called into question and were cancelled.
 - g. An urgent works notice was served on the oldest buildings on the site, which make up around 25 per cent of the total buildings.
 - h. Following failed negotiations with the owners of the building, the council, in conjunction with the Prince's Regeneration Trust, entered the site a year ago to make the necessary urgent repairs. The council has spent £1 million on those repairs.
 - i. Dangerous structures notices have been served on some of the other buildings on site.
 - j. The council is committed to protecting the building and has a range of powers at its disposal that should enable it do so. The Prince's Regeneration Trust representative stated that the council's work on this issue was unparalleled.
 - k. It will be necessary to concentrate efforts on saving the oldest and most important 25 per cent of the site at first, with the hope that more of the buildings can be made safe for future regeneration.
 - l. The council fears that, once the current work is completed and the council and contractors leave the site, people will try to gain access to the building and could hurt themselves or cause further damage to the building. An average of 20 people a week try to get on site at the present time.
 - m. The council had consulted with the Countryside Council for Wales on the bat roosts, and the CCW are content with the council's actions in this respect.
5. The Committee thanked the council for their enthusiasm for the project and for taking the urgent action that was required.
 6. The Committee asked the council to meet with petitioners to discuss the issue and the council agreed that they would do so as soon as the situation allowed. The council also agreed to consider its wider communication strategy on this issue.
 7. The Chair thanked Graham Boase, Heather Cafearo and Edward Holland for their time.

Committee Service

July 2012

Eitem 3.11

P-04-407 : Achub Llety Gwarchod Kennard Court ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn

Geiriad y ddeiseb: Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wrthwynebu cau Llety Gwarchod Kennard Court ar gyfer pobl hŷn. Gorfodwyd y trigolion i adael yr adeilad a dod o hyd i rywle arall i fyw, am y rheswm ffug bod asbestos ynddo. Nid yw trigolion y Llety wedi cael cefnogaeth i'w hachos gan neb, ac maent bron â rhoi'r ffidil yn y to. Mae angen i ni eu cefnogi a'u cynorthwyo i aros yn eu cartref. Mae rhai trigolion wedi cael eu symud eisoes, ac mae bygythiad i droi'r rhai sy'n weddill o'u cartref os na fyddant yn symud. Mae Bron Afon yn targedu pobl agored i niwed, hŷn, sy'n 70 oed a throsodd. Nid yw hyn yn deg, a rhaid rhoi terfyn arno. Mae'n anodd meddwl am y trigolion, yn y cyfnod hwn yn eu bywydau, yn dioddef y straen a'r pryder o orfod cael eu hail-gartrefu. Llofnodwch y ddeiseb hon.

Gwybodaeth ategol: Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r trigolion hyn, ynghyd â'u cyndeidiau, wedi byw ym Mlaenafon ar hyd eu hoes. Maent wedi cyfrannu at Flaenafon a'r gymuned. MAE ANGEN EIN CEFNOGAETH NI ARNYNT.'

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Georgina James

Ystyriwyd y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf: 17 Gorffennaf 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 19

FAO: William Powell AM
By email via abigail.phillips@wales.gov.uk

Our Ref
Your Ref

IS/CF

Contact
Telephone
E-mail

Ian Simpson
01633 620427
ian.simpson@bronafon.org.uk

3rd August 2012

Dear William,

Re: Kennard Court Petition

Thank you for your letter of 24 July 2012 advising of the petition that your Committee is considering. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment and hope that the information I have sent you is helpful.

I believe it is important to set things in context so I will begin with a general overview before explaining the decision that has been made by our Board about Kennard Court and how we are putting it into practice.

The History and the Issues

Like almost every other provider of housing for older people, we are struggling to address the fact that there is now a significantly low level of demand for our Retirement Housing. We receive an average of 100 bids for every advertisement in general needs housing. In contrast, we have proportions as low as one bid for every eight advertisements in Retirement Housing. In other words, some of our Retirement Housing compares with general needs housing in terms of popularity on a ratio of 1:800.

This is a UK wide problem that is being experience by all providers.

Retirement Housing (or sheltered housing as it was then known) was built in the 1950s & 60s in Torfaen and was built for a population reaching retirement age who did not have a long life expectancy following retirement or who would expect to move onto residential care accommodation when their needs increased.

As you are aware, there is very little residential care accommodation available now and so it is expected that people will remain in Retirement Housing throughout the rest of their lives, even when they become more vulnerable through reduced mobility, medical problems, poorer eyesight or indeed dementia. Retirement Housing was not built with the needs of these more

Tŷ Bron Afon, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Industrial Park, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 3AB
Telephone: 01633 620 111 • Email: enquiries@bronafon.org.uk • www.bronafon.org.uk

Investing in People, Homes and Communities in Torfaen

vulnerable older people in mind and very little of our Retirement Housing would meet current standards of design for accommodation for older people.

We have calculated that it would cost £26 million to demolish and build new accommodation of a suitable modern standard for older people living in our Retirement Housing. Even to upgrade it to a high standard and address some of the accessibility problems would cost approaching £20m. We do not have the funds to choose either of these options.

Instead, with a few exceptions where we are planning to change the age range for Retirement Housing (which I will come on to) our Board has set aside over £2m of new money to upgrade communal areas of Retirement Housing which were not previously included in our business plans. In other words, we are making a significant extra commitment to Retirement Housing to bring it up to a higher standard than required. We hope this will address some of the issues in relation to low demand by changing the look and feel of our Retirement schemes and making them more attractive for potential applicants.

The other reason why Retirement Housing demand has dropped significantly is that 55% of those currently occupying our Retirement Housing used to be owner/occupiers and sold their properties in order to move into Retirement Housing. Clearly, in the current housing market, few people are able to sell their properties for a reasonable price so that source of new demand has completely dried up.

The last reason why Retirement Housing is proving to be less popular is that people now have expectations that they can stay in their own homes as their needs increase and they become less mobile. If they are owners, they are entitled to a disabled facilities grant to adapt the property for their use. Bron Afon have spent over £5m on adaptations to our properties since transfer so that people can remain in them despite a disability. Helping to support people to remain in their own homes is in line with Welsh Government Older People's policy and Torfaen's local policy. It is a policy that we endorse but it has implications for demand for Retirement Housing now and in the future.

The consequence of all these factors is that there is very low demand for some of our Retirement schemes.

Our Board have been grappling with the issue of how to address these problems since before the time of transfer to Bron Afon. The status quo was not an option and was unsustainable.

Voids in Retirement Housing

The result of low demand is that we began 2012 with about 50 long term voids (i.e. empty homes) in our Retirement Housing which is broadly half of the number of total voids that we have at any one time. These long term voids are a very significant element of our rent loss through voids and need to be addressed in order to meet our Business Plan requirements particularly with the on-going risk arising from Housing Benefit changes. When we analysed the figures, it showed that over half of the long term Retirement voids were in five of our schemes (and three of these schemes were in Blaenavon). In addition, approximately two thirds of our

Tŷ Bron Afon, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Industrial Park, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 3AB
Telephone: 01633 620 111 • Email: enquiries@bronafon.org.uk • www.bronafon.org.uk

Investing in People, Homes and Communities in Torfaen

rent loss for long term voids was in these five schemes.

The Board, therefore, considered it appropriate to try and tackle the problem of low demand in these five schemes.

The five low demand schemes

The five low demand schemes were:

Tan y Coed in Pontenewynydd
Baker Street in Blaenavon
Ivor Gardens in Blaenavon
Kennard Court in Blaenavon
Sid Griffiths Court in Garddiffeith.

These are all in the North of the Borough and three of them are in Blaenavon.

We decided that we would consult tenants about changes to their schemes in four of these schemes. Baker Street was the most suitably designed of the three schemes in Blaenavon and had the most thriving community. We hope that by making changes to the other two schemes in Blaenavon this will result in it becoming easier to fill our long term voids in Baker Street.

Consultation with tenants

Rather than inform tenants what we planned to do, we instead began a process of consultation. We went out to the four schemes and talked to tenants collectively in Coffee Mornings and individually regarding their views about how we should tackle the problem in their scheme of lack of demand and also what their own personal wishes were in terms of living in the scheme. We then considered the responses that we'd had and came up with a set of draft proposals for each scheme. We went back out to the schemes and talked to the tenants collectively and individually about the proposals and again sought their views about how they would like to respond in the light of our plans.

Following consultation with tenants we proposed that in three of the schemes we will reduce the minimum age for lettings to 50 years old enabling the schemes to become general need schemes. In two of those schemes we will in due course decommission the washing facilities and the communal room changing these schemes into normal general needs flats albeit with a restricted age range. Tenants were broadly content with reducing the age range but would prefer us to maintain the washing facilities and communal rooms.

Kennard Court

Kennard Court was the fourth of the schemes where we were consulting with tenants and here we came up with a different proposal. In Kennard Court we proposed to decommission the scheme completely and move everyone out and use the building and land for some alternative use. The reason we came up with a different plan for Kennard Court was because not only is its

Tŷ Bron Afon, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Industrial Park, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 3AB
Telephone: 01633 620 111 • Email: enquiries@bronafon.org.uk • www.bronafon.org.uk

Investing in People, Homes and Communities in Torfaen

design not suitable for continued use as older people's housing it is riddled with asbestos. In order to meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, we have to do work to the heating system and in order to do the work to the heating system all the asbestos has to be removed. As it is throughout the building, we cannot do these works with moving all the occupants out for their own health and safety.

As we are going to have to move all the occupants, we decided that this was an appropriate time to decommission the scheme completely and move the occupants on a permanent basis rather than moving them on a temporary basis and then allowing them to return.

Accordingly, after we had consulted with them and sought their views, we went back to the tenants of Kennard Court with the proposal to decommission the scheme. We spoke to tenants individually and a significant number indicated to us privately that they were happy to move. Public meetings were called by a local Council candidate and members of the public were invited to this meeting too at which a significant amount of anxiety was created for tenants and a lot of pressure put on tenants to say they would not move. We declined to attend this meeting as it was clearly a party political meeting and it was inevitable it would increase anxiety and we have received a significant number of complaints about the calling and handling of the meeting since.

Throughout the process, residents of Kennard Court have been telling us privately that they are actually content to move and in some cases keen to move but have felt pressured in saying they did not want to move when asked in public.

Tenants in Kennard Court have been given a package of assistance:

- They get a home loss payment of £4400 per household each when they move;
- They receive a disturbance payment which covers the full cost of removal, transfers of their telephone line and the redirection of post. We arrange all of this work for them if they wish;
- They get first choice of our available properties so that they can choose to stay in Blaenavon if they wish or move further down the valley or live elsewhere

We have already dealt with numerous re-housing arrangements with tenants in Retirement Housing and many older tenants in their own homes who are anxious and concerned about works and moves so we have an experienced team use to hand holding and reassuring older people in these kinds of circumstances. Indeed, over the past four years we have received many compliments from tenants and their families about how sensitively we have supported older people through moves and works. The same staff teams are now working with the tenants of Kennard Court to support them to move.

At the time of writing 5 of the 12 households we are working have moved to new homes of their choice and 4 more have moves planned. Of the remaining 3 households 1 is a temporary resident in an intermediate care flat that the Council's Health and Social Care team manage and we are working with them to secure permanent accommodation and 2 are tenants who are waiting for vacancies to arise on a neighbouring Bron Afon scheme.

Tŷ Bron Afon, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Industrial Park, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 3AB
Telephone: 01633 620 111 • Email: enquiries@bronafon.org.uk • www.bronafon.org.uk

Investing in People, Homes and Communities in Torfaen

Conclusion

We have been through a lengthy process of consultation. This has created some inevitable anxieties because change is not something that people would prefer to happen. Nevertheless, we have approached the issue sensitively and made sure that our staff have calmly and clearly explained the position to tenants. Unfortunately, the position has been confused by the intervention of local Councillors who have not only confused the facts but also created a lot of anxiety amongst the tenants and forced them in the position of having to state things that they are not happy with. I think we are over this period now and that the residents who we have so far helped to move are very happy with their new homes. This is reflected in comments made to us by tenants about their new homes:

“very happy”, “a lot more suitable”, “yes, in hindsight it is more suitable”

Please let me know if you require any further information and thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Simpson
Director of Community Housing and Support

Tŷ Bron Afon, William Brown Close, Llantarnam Industrial Park, Cwmbran, Torfaen NP44 3AB
Telephone: 01633 620 111 • Email: enquiries@bronafor.org.uk • www.bronafon.org.uk

Investing in People, Homes and Communities in Torfaen

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/06023/12

FAO - William Powell AM
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

6 August 2012

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 24 July regarding a petition received by the Petitions Committee from residents of Kennard Court, a sheltered accommodation for older people owned Bron Afon Community Housing.

I note with some concern the issues raised by the residents of Kennard Court.

I have asked my Regulation Team, responsible for regulation of this Association, to take into consideration the issues and concerns you have raised and monitor its performance. Any regulatory concerns relating to the Association's performance on governance, financial management or landlord services will be included in the regulatory assessment report which will be published on both the Welsh Government and Association's websites respectively.

I regret that I am unable to provide any further assistance in this matter except I would like to take this opportunity to also mention that should the residents remain dissatisfied with the way in which their landlord has dealt with their complaints then they have a right to ask the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales to undertake an independent investigation. Contact details for this service are set out below:

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)
recycled paper*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.huw.lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100%

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
1, Ffordd Yr Hen Gae
Pencoed
CF35 5LJ

Telephone: 01656 641150. Further details about this service can also be found at <http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/>

Thank you once again for brining this matter to my attention.



Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Eitem 3.12

P-04-378 Ymestyn Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Gŵyr

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod cynnig Cymdeithas Gŵyr i ymestyn Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Gŵyr yn cael ei hwyluso. Mae hyn ar sail y ffaith bod Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru wedi cael y cais i'w ystyried ers 2005 a'r ffaith nad yw'r Cyngor Cefn Gwlad, ers mis Rhagfyr 2011, bellach yn ystyried cynigion o'r fath oherwydd y posibilrwydd o sefydlu Corff Amgylcheddol Sengl newydd i Gymru.

Prif ddeisebydd: Cymdeithas Gŵyr

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor am y tro cyntaf: 27 Mawrth 2012

Nifer y deisebwyr: 1 gan sefydliad

Gwybodaeth ategol: Ar 1 Mawrth 2005, ysgrifennodd Cymdeithas Gŵyr (un o'r grwpiau amwynder lleol hynaf a mwyaf yng Nghymru) at Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru i ofyn iddo ystyried ymestyn Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Gŵyr i ardaloedd yng ngogledd-ddwyrain Penrhyn Gŵyr, rhannau o Aber y Lluchwr ac Ardal Gadwraeth y Lluchwr, a llawer o ardal tir uchel Mawr.

Ymateb Prif Weithredwr Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru (29.03.05) oedd bod y Cyngor Cefn Gwlad yn gweithio gyda Chyngor Sir Ddinbych i "greu proses a fydd yn llywio unrhyw benderfyniadau ynghylch a ddylid cyflwyno darn o dir fel cynnig ar gyfer dynodi Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol. Bwriedir i'r broses ganlyniadol fod yn hollol drosglwyddadwy i unrhyw ardaloedd eraill yng Nghymru." Aeth ymlaen i ddweud: "Mae'n debyg y caiff y cynllun peilot hwn ei gwblhau erbyn mis Mawrth 2006".

Mae cyfres o lythyrau wedi dilyn yr ohebiaeth gyntaf hon ac mae amryw o gyfarfodydd wedi'u cynnal yn swyddfeydd y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol rhwng cynrychiolwyr o Gymdeithas Gŵyr a Chyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru. Cafodd y cyfarfodydd eu trefnu gan - ac roeddent fel arfer yng nghwmni - Edwina Hart, yr Aelod Cynulliad dros Gŵyr.

Cynhaliwyd dau gyfarfod gyda Ms Jane Davidson pan oedd hi'n Weinidog â chyfrifoldeb dros yr amgylchedd, ac ar 18.07.11, cyfarfu cynrychiolwyr o Gymdeithas Gŵyr â Mr John Griffiths, y Gweinidog (inter alia) dros yr Amgylchedd.

Ym mhob un o'r tri chyfarfod hyn cafodd y cynnig i ymestyn yr Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol ei drafod.

Polisi Dinas a Sir Abertawe yw cefnogi estyniad o'r fath ac mae Cyngor Cymuned Mawr (yr ardal sy'n cael ei heffeithio fwyaf gan y cynnig) wedi mynegi'i gefnogaeth lawn.

Wedi i Orchymyn Dynodi Mynyddoedd Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy gael ei gadarnhau gan y Gweinidog ar 22.11.11, fe wnaethom ysgrifennu at Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru eto, yn ei annog i symud ymlaen â'n cynnig ers 2005 ar gyfer Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol Gŵyr. Roedd ateb y Prif Weithredwr yn nodi cymeradwyaeth Llywodraeth Cymru o'r achos dros sefydlu Corff Amgylcheddol Sengl i Gymru. "Ar sail y newidiadau pwysig iawn hyn", meddai "byddwn yn canolbwyntio'n hymdrechion dros y 18 mis nesaf ar weithio... er mwyn sicrhau pontio esmwyth o Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru i'r Corff Amgylcheddol Sengl". Felly "Nid ydym mewn sefyllfa i ystyried unrhyw gynigion pellach ar gyfer newid ffiniau na dynodiadau newydd".

Erbyn hynny, bydd dros wyth mlynedd wedi mynd heibio ers i'n cynnig gael ei roi i Gyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru yn y lle cyntaf. Yn ein barn ni, mae cyfnod mor hir â hyn o oedi yn afresymol, ac rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i hwyluso'r broses hon.



John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06577/12

William Powell AM
Chair Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

8 August 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 10 July with which you enclose a letter from Countryside Council for Wales, and a petition from the Gower Society which I have already commented upon in my letter to you of 18 April.

Regarding your comments about Countryside Council for Wales' service levels reducing before the new Single Body is established. I have made my priorities and services level requirements very clear to them in their 2012/13 Remit Letter which is published at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/ccw/remit1213/?lang=en>

Included within the list of priorities is work on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty relating to pre-designation work to which it is committed. Countryside Council for Wales have not made any commitment to undertake pre designation work for the extension of the Gower AONB and this is therefore consistent with the service levels I expect from them in the implementation year.

Any consideration of the extension to an AONB is a matter for Countryside Council for Wales, which from 1 April 2013 will be a matter for the new Single Body. I am however aware that to aid any future work on AONB designations, the Countryside Council for Wales have been developing and testing a methodology for landscape designation in Wales.

Countryside Council for Wales in their letter to the Committee advise that there is to be a review of designations to inform the Environment Bill. In your letter you seek a timeline for the White Paper and the Bill. My officials are currently analysing the responses received to Sustaining a Living Wales, which will be published at the end of August. While a review of designations will be part of my considerations it is far too early to speculate whether any provision will be needed within an Environment Bill.

Best wishes,

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

PET(4)-13-12 : Tuesday 2 October 2012
P-04-378 : Extend the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Gower AONB extension

Thank you for forwarding the Minister's letter of 8th August, addressed to the Chair of the Petitions Committee.

We were disappointed at the Minister's response since although he says (paragraph 4) that 'any consideration of the extension to an AONB is a matter for CCW', Annex 1 of his remit letter of 11 April 2012 to Mr Morgan Parry (Chairman CCW) makes it clear that it is the Minister who is telling CCW which AONBs they should be looking at: "only the Ceiriog Valley area". We have not seen Remit letters for the previous six years, so cannot know how far or for how long consideration of AONB extensions (other than the Ceiriog Valley area) has been specifically excluded from the Minister's priorities and service level requirements.

The Minister's letter to you makes it clear (paragraph 4) that he is "aware that the Countryside Council for Wales have been developing and testing a methodology for landscape designation". We were told this by CCW in our initial correspondence with them in 2005, and on a number of occasions since then. Nothing appears to have changed.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Ridge MBE
Chairman,
The Gower Society

Eitem 3.13

P-04-324 Dywedwch Na i Tan 8 – Mae ffermydd gwynt a llinellau pŵer foltedd uchel yn difetha ein cymuned

Geiriad y ddeiseb

Mae 'Nodyn Cyngor Technegol (TAN) 8: Ynni Adnewyddadwy (2005)' gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn darparu cyngor a chanllawiau sydd, heb amheuaeth, yn arwain at halogi cefn gwlad brydferth canolbarth Cymru. Bydd dilyn y canllawiau hyn yn difetha ein tirwedd brydferth; yn cynyddu'r perygl i iechyd a achosir gan belydriad electromagnetig; yn niweidio twristiaeth, sef un o'r prif sectorau cyflogaeth; yn datbrisio adeiladau ac yn achosi difrod sylweddol i'r amgylchedd.

Pan gyhoeddwyd y nodyn cyngor technegol, a elwir yn TAN 8 yn aml, gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru yn 2005, nid oedd y boblogaeth leol yn amgyffred i ba raddau y byddai'n effeithio ar drigolion canolbarth Cymru. Bydd Nodyn Cyngor Technegol 8 yn caniatáu i gannoedd o dyrbinau gwynt gael eu hadeiladu yn ein cymunedau.

O ganlyniad i adeiladu'r ffermydd gwynt hyn, bydd yn rhaid i'r Grid Cenedlaethol osod llinellau trawsyrru pŵer i gludo'r pŵer i le y bydd ei angen, er ein bod yn cydnabod nad yw Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn rhan o'r broses o benderfynu gosod y llinellau pŵer hyn.

Rydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ymgymryd ag adolygiad sylweddol o bolisi TAN 8 a fydd yn cynnwys mwy o ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd.

Linc i'r ddeiseb: <http://www.senedd.cynulliadcymru.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=1017>

Cynigwyd gan: John Day

Nifer y llofnodion: 3,249 o lofnodion. Casglwyd dros 13,500 o lofnodion gan ddeisebau cysylltiedig.

Ystyriwyd gan y Pwyllgor ar: 12 Mehefin, 21 Gorffennaf 2011.

Y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf: Cafwyd gohebiaeth gan Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy, y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd a'r Adran Ynni a Newid Hinsawdd a Gwirfoddolwyr Abergorlech, Llansawel a Rhydcymerau.

William Powell, A.M., Chairman Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24th August 2012

Dear Mr Powell,

Re Tan 8 Petition

I thank you and your colleagues for the opportunity to submit a petition to your committee. You and your staff have been extremely helpful and kept me informed at every stage of the process. The experience of presenting the petition to you and fellow Assembly Members on the steps of the Senedd, meeting with Assembly Members, and later meeting First Minister, Carwyn Jones was something that I will remember for ever.

As a result of my involvement as lead petitioner I was invited to submit evidence to the Environment and Sustainability Committee on the 12th January 2012 which I must admit I found a little stressful as I suffer from Parkinsons. I believe that in this meeting the opportunity for meaningful input and expansion was too controlled and restricted by the Chairman, consequently the evidence was rather limited in its detail.

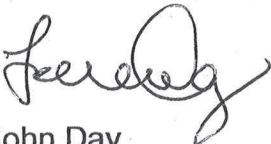
The Tan 8 petition, together with associated petitions, has helped to highlight the widespread and profound feeling of the people, protest meetings continue, and the recent announcement by the National Grid to site a massive sub station at Cefn Coch and to run high voltage cables to Lower Frankton has increased the resolve of the local residents. It's clear that the Welsh Assembly Government are not listening to common sense, history is repeating itself. Only 26 miles north west is the Tryweryn reservoir at Capel Cerig. The

village of Capel Celyn near Bala was flooded over 46 years ago to provide water for Liverpool. People were driven from their homes to build Tryweryn reservoir. Protests had been angry and widespread over a 9 year period, winning support from all political parties in Wales. Every Welsh MP apart from one voted against the scheme, but Liverpool Corporation, with the backing of English MPs, regardless of public opinion, drove through a parliamentary bill. The 800-acre valley was flooded and caused the destruction of a school, a post office, a chapel and cemetery. It flooded 12 farms and destroyed many peoples lives. New research even suggests that the flooding was not necessary. There are lessons to be learned from Tryweryn, why can't we learn from our previous mistakes? I am very disappointed and feel let down by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, as he is unwilling to accept the valid evidence. Furthermore he does not take the views of the people of Mid Wales into account and has reneged upon his earlier statements. During a meeting that I attended, along with five other representatives concerning wind farm developments, and in subsequent announcements he said: "The Welsh Government believes this level of development is unacceptable in view of its wider impacts on the local area." He stated: "My government would not support the construction of large pylons in Mid Wales." In changing his stance he has lost any respect and credibility he may have previously held.

I believe the process of being able to submit petitions on-line adds to the democratic process giving individuals and groups a direct opportunity to influence decision making. But as we see with the current wind farm issues in Mid Wales democracy is only possible if the Government and its leaders are willing to listen and act upon the will of the people. I accept that you and your Committee have done everything you can and I agree that the Petition should now be closed.

Once again, many thanks

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Day', written in a cursive style.

John Day

P-04-383 Yn Erbyn Dynodiad Parth Perygl Nitradau ar gyfer Llyn Llangors

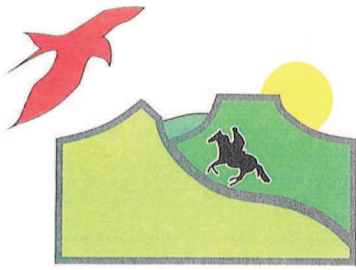
Geiriad y ddeiseb:

'Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i wrthdroi'r dynodiad Parth Perygl Nitradau arfaethedig ar fasn Llyn Llangors, sy'n debygol o effeithio ar tua 25 o fusnesau ffermio.'

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Kaye Davies

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 27 Mawrth 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 43



Pen-y-Bryn Farms

Gilfach Farm, Llangorse, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7UH

Tel: 01874 658584 or 658272 | Fax: 01874 658280

Email: enquiry@activityuk.com | Web: www.activityuk.com

Water Policy Branch,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
15TH March 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

NVZ designation within the Llangorse Lake catchment area

We the undersigned are a group of farmers farming within the designated area of the proposed NVZ.

As a group and individually we are appalled to discover that we have had no prior notification of the proposals of an NVZ designation and facility to make representations. Had we not been informed from an outside source we would not have been in a position to make representations on our thoughts and worries within the short timescale.

We have met on many occasions in the short time allowed for consultations and have submitted the attached points of concern which need to be addressed prior to future discussions with our group as to how best implement future management controls.

Please find enclosed attachments:

1. Points of Concern
2. NFU Letter
3. FUW Letter
4. Local County Councillor

Correspondence to be directly sent:

1. CLA Letter
2. MP and AM Letter
3. Community Council Letter

CC:

CCW and Environment Agency

Yours Sincerely,

The Undersigned



Wales
Cymru

Awards:
Business Excellence Awards 2006
Worldwide Small Business Awards 2005
Welsh Tourism Awards 2005

THE BRITISH
HORSE SOCIETY



APPROVED RIDING
ESTABLISHMENT



Adventure Activities Licensing Scheme | Visit Wales | Welcome Host | Licensed by Powys C.C | The British Horse Society | Wales Trekking & Riding Association

Registered in Wales No. 1808103 VAT No: 133 8377 60

Member of NPD Ltd. Group of Companies. Registered Office : Pen-y-Bryn House, Llangorse, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7UG.
Directors: J V M Thomas, I A Thomas, I M Preece, R M Thomas.

Points of concern to be addressed before further consultation with farmers on the implication of a NVZ on land in the catchment area of Llangorse Lake

1. Landowners were not given prior warning for the consultation document and not supplied with a copy, when they are the most important people affected. This contravenes our legal rights under the Human Justices Act.
2. The relevant authority must first look to what originally caused the problem in the lake and make them responsible for the damage done. Also address the current position where the Bwlch sewage works is constantly overflowing due to problems pumping over the cutting. Compounding this issue there is over 70 properties with their own septic tanks and soak aways emptying into a clay basin. After this has been achieved then come back to the farmers and with their cooperation look at how the quality of the lake can be further improved. In the 30-year time span there was no control of the nutrients entering the lake from the two sewage works at Llangorse and Bwlch. This allowed further damage when the motor boats churned up this powerful cocktail and aided by the prevailing wind washed it into and onto the north east shore and over a period of time destroyed the then present reed beds. This has not been rectified and has resulted in damaging the ecological status of the lake.
3. CCW arranged for sections of the eastern side of the lake to be fenced off to allow them to re-establish the reed beds that were extensive prior to the construction of the sewage plant in the early 1950's. They have not made any effort to undertake this work having put the farmers to great expense.
4. There is little reference to the extensive damage done up to the time the sewage was diverted to Talgarth. This damage had long lasting implications with over 30 years of effluent entering the lake from Llangorse and Bwlch, much of the time untreated.
5. Numbers of stock are grossly inaccurate. The number of cattle in 1993/7 was just under 600 and sheep just under 4,000. This has changed to date with cattle remaining the same and sheep reducing to fewer than 3,000. This reflects badly in the figures and graphs submitted in the consultation document.
6. Change by farmers, has been made due to costs and efficiency and no reference or allowances has been made to accommodate these e.g. N levels reduced, due to high pricing, along with nutrient management plans in place for most farms around the lake. The reports are out dated and do not reflect the present as most of the farmers in the catchment area have spent large amounts of money building and installing modern systems to greatly reduce the environmental impact on their own land and eventual run off into the lake.
7. The report is not damning. Since this report has been conducted several improvements have been made on numerous farms that have not been taken into account.

8. To impose restriction on farmers on the use of certain buildings built prior to 1991 is unacceptable unless the rebuild is completely financed by government or the authority imposing these restrictions. Much of the land in the catchment area is about to complete ten years in Tir Gofal and are signed up for Glastir as from 2012 with more entering the scheme 2013/14. To comply with their current entry agreement they would be compelled to replace their slurry systems etc. This would not be cost effective and the only answer would be to withdraw from the Glastir scheme prior to any payments been made.
9. Farmers are the best custodians of the countryside and are more aware of the preservation of the countryside than the bodies of bureaucrats who impose their personal interpretation on out of date research. Unfortunately the Llangorse Lake Advisory Group is not of like mind and do not have an overall policy as to present and future management of the lake.
10. Before imposing more restrictions on the already vulnerable agricultural community in this area the authorities need to get their own house in order and do an in depth study of the amount of effluent created from private sewage disposal from private properties on the south east section of the catchment area. This from CCW studies is being shown to have the highest level of nutrients entering the lake. Most of the other catchment area is already disposed of into the existing mains sewage system. This area of land is not intensively farmed due to the land soil structure, white clay-underlying layer. However this is an area that has the largest number of dwellings with septic tanks emptying into this impenetrable clay base, so all effluent freely entering the lake via the river completely untreated.
11. Compulsory intervention never works; negotiation and mutual need to improve will win hearts and ultimately improve the lake for our future generation to enjoy. It is only there as it was prior to the advent of the sewage problem due to the way our forefathers farmed and moulded the countryside around the lake. Bureaucrats think they are an express train but farmers look to the future in a completely different way and continue to mould the countryside in a fashion that will meet future needs and preserve the fabric of the countryside to meet this need.
12. The suggestion that it may be necessary to purchase some of the land adjoining the lake, this may be acceptable if agreement could be reached, however there is a greater issue, the devaluing of the land forming the catchment area a total of approximately 7,000 acres. This could lead to a claim of at least £45,000,000 from the affected landowners along with annual claims for loss of income.
13. It is the belief of all the land owners that over and above the current improvements made that with cooperation and careful management and monitoring further improvements can be achieved without damaging or curtailing the present level of farming undertaken by farmers of this exceptional area. We are not only farmers but are conservationists as well and seriously want to protect and enhance the environment we have the privilege of farming and living in. without detriment to the lake.

NFU CYMRU

Tŷ Amaeth – Agriculture House, Royal Welsh
Showground

Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3TU

Telephone: 01982 554200 Fax: 01982 554201

Website: www.nfu-cymru.org.uk



Director: Mary James

Ein cyf/Our ref:

Eich cyf/Your ref:

E-mail:

Dyddiad/Date: 13 March 2012

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed NVZ Llangors Lake catchment

NFU Cymru has met with farmers in the proposed NVZ designation in the Llangors Lake area and a number of concerns have been raised, as outlined in their letter of correspondence enclosed.

We have particular concern regarding the proposal to repeal the exemption for slurry, silage and fuel stores on farms that were built or were committed to being built before 1 March 1991 under SSAFO regulations. NFU Cymru has written to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development regarding this issue. There are a large number of these structures on Welsh farms which were soundly built that pose no pollution threat. A significant proportion of these structures will have many years of useful life left in them. We would strongly contend that there is no good reason or evidence to suggest that in these circumstances farmers should be forced into the huge cost of having to build new structures by 2015.

NFU Cymru will also raise other issues regarding the burden of bureaucracy and the impact of this designation, in our direct response to the NVZ consultation which is currently open.

The group of farmers in the Llangors area are hugely concerned regarding the proposed designation. NFU Cymru notes that the reason for the notification is eutrophication in the lake. Nitrate levels in the lake are very low and we would question the implication in the proposed designation that nitrates from agriculture are a significant contributor to eutrophication. This is after all a nitrates directive. We would suggest that those farmers in the catchment appeal against its' inclusion on this basis.

NFU Cymru fully understands these concerns which have been raised by these farmers in the area and we support their representations made.

Yours sincerely,

Stella Owen
Farm Policy Advisor NFU Cymru



FARMERS' UNION OF WALES
UNDEB AMAETHWYR CYMRU
BRECON & RADNOR BRANCH • CANGEN BRYCHEINIOG A MAESYFED

County Office/Swyddfa Sirol: 8 Ship Street, Brecon, Powys, LD3 9AF.
Tel/Ffôn: (01874) 622779. Fax/Ffacs: (01874) 610374.
E-mail/E-bost: brecon-fuw@btinternet.com

Reference/Cyfeirnod:

Date/Dyddiad:

12th March 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Farmers Union of Wales fully supports the farmers of the Llangorse area in opposing any NVZ Designation for the area. We agree with their points of concern and have raised similar concerns regarding the inclusion of Llangorse as a potential NVZ and numerous other concerns in our own consultation response.

Yours sincerely,

Aled Jones

Melanie Davies
County Councillor
Llangorse Ward

Castle House
Llangorse
Brecon
LD3 7UD

14th March 2012

Response to the consultation on the review of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in Wales with reference to Llangorse Lake

I have been part of a family business that operates on Llangorse Lake all my life, I am a member of the Llangorse Lake Advisory Group and am the County Councillor for the Llangorse Ward.

Please note my following comments as part of your consultation regarding the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designation proposals, as outlined in 'Nutrient Modelling and Nutrient budget for Llangors Lake Report 831 April 2008'.

I am very concerned about the whole process and how it bypasses the local farming community directly affected in the proposed Zone. I do not understand the rationale of not fully engaging at the report and consultation stages, the result is that it leaves affected landowners disengaged and only able to give any challenge after the area has been designated through an appeals process. I am amazed that this is seen as good practice, where is the open and transparent democratic accountability, even within Local Planning Authorities those directly affected are consulted before, as part of a rounded report.

The farming community should have been integral to the report, I am informed that the stock numbers are inaccurate; how then, can the assumptions based on their numbers be given any weight? And why was this information not qualified by asking those who knew eg, the farmers?

I understand that nutrient management plans are in place already and are common practice and that if the Zone is imposed it will just increase the bureaucracy that local businesses are expected to comply with, resulting in little or no results on the ground, except to devalue the effected land and burden owners with more red tape. I also have a real concern that this will have huge cost implications on individuals with regards to infrastructure and that no audit has been carried out to assess the current suitability of existing buildings, silage, slurry and oil fuel provision. It could undermine some farming practices to the point were some individuals could be driven out of the industry altogether.

I do not understand why the reports recommendations target the Nitrates which are recorded as entering the lake from the North area and does not tackle the issue of the greater in-flow and Nitrate load (50-56%) entering the Lake from the Llynfi inlet (site No 6 in report). Is the Bwlch Sewage Pump Station spilling effluent into the lakes flood zone so it feeds in as sub-surface water?

What is being done to ensure that all the septic tanks in the north eastern area and out towards Bwlch are not polluting the Lake, what about soak-aways in old properties?

The Lake water quality has improved greatly over the last two decades and its status and how this status is arrived at is regularly debated at LLAG. Unfortunately part of the report, the recommendations are drawn from, was drawn up in a very dry spell and samples could only be taken from two inputs into the lake which means the wrong conclusions could be drawn. It is on this basis and those already mentioned above that I would suggest a management agreement should be drawn up between the interested parties and monitoring should be continued to ensure a fair, transparent and equitable way forward any other system at the present point in time is pre emptive and unsound and while it may have no detrimental effect on the Lake it would have a disproportionate one on the local inhabitants.

I strongly support the conservation of the Lake and the surrounding area, I also believe that voluntary agreements and working groups foster better mutual understanding, respect and working practices than heavy handed legislation. The best placed people to support this work are the farmers themselves who have long term invested interests in the environment by the very fact that they live and work in the area from generation to generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melanie Davies
County Councillor

PET(4)-13-12 : Tuesday 2 October 2012
P-04-383 : Against NVZ Designation for Llangorse Lake

Note of Petitions Committee visit to Glan Aber farm in Dinbych, 1 July 2012

Related petition: P-04-383 Against NVZ Designation for Llangorse Lake:

'We call on the Welsh Assembly Government to overturn the proposed Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) designation on the basin of Llangorse Lake, which is likely to affect approximately 25 farm businesses.'

Present:

William Powell AM (Chair)
Bethan Jenkins AM
Joyce Watson AM
Owain Williams, farmer
Geraint Williams, farmer
Rhys Roberts, FUW
Abigail Phillips, Clerk
Sarita Marshall, Deputy Clerk
Annette Millett, Committee Support

1. The Chair thanked Owain and Geraint Williams for welcoming the Committee to their farm on a Sunday, and Rhys Roberts for his attendance.
2. The Chair introduced the Committee and invited the farmers to tell the Committee how their business had been affected by the NVZ designation of the area.
3. Owain and Geraint Williams explained that theirs was a 500 acre beef and milk farm.
4. Their farm had been included in a NVZ designated area 12 months ago. They had carried out nitrate level tests before the changes were made and the results were around 15. Levels were now down to 8. The farmers questioned the need for the NVZ designation as generally levels below 50 were considered good so the pre-designation levels should have been acceptable.
5. The farmers also felt that the designation had limited value given that water from surrounding farms runs into their land.
6. The farmers explained that the NVZ designation had necessitated a £70,000 to £80, 000 investment in the farm. The Welsh Government had offered grants for 40 per cent of the cost, but the farmers felt that the grant application process was slow and overly bureaucratic, although they were grateful for the help as they recognised that this was not available to farmers in England. They did not have a single point of contact during the process, but had to deal with several officials.
7. The farmers also felt they needed to employ someone to deal with the extra paperwork, which added to the expense. The day to day paperwork is also more time consuming for the farmers now.
8. They also felt that the nitrate levels should be dealt with through the Water Directive rather than NVZ designations.
9. They feel that the NVZ designation means that they are disadvantaged when competing with neighbouring farms.

10. They showed the Committee the slurry pit that they had significantly enlarged as a result of the NVZ designation. It was now four metres deep and approximately four times the length of the original slurry pit.
11. They explained that they had to change the way the manure was spread on the fields. The old method had been to leave the manure on top of the fields, but now they had to inject it into the earth. This was done by using an injector that attached to a farm vehicle. The injector had cost £35,000.
12. The volume of slurry stored and the need to inject rather than spread manure means that farmers now have to spend longer dealing with that aspect of the farm.
13. The Chair thanked Owain and Geraint Williams and Rhys Roberts for their time.

Committee Service

July 2012

P-04-390 Dynodi Gwarchodfa Natur Penrhos Caergybi (parc arfordir) yn Warchodfa Natur Genedlaethol

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Yr ydym yn galw ar Gynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i ddynodi Gwarchodfa Natur Penrhos Caergybi (parc arfordir) yn Warchodfa Natur Genedlaethol.

Gwybodaeth ategol:

Mae'r gymuned wedi bod yn defnyddio Gwarchodfa Natur Penrhos (parc arfordir), Caergybi am 40 mlynedd. Mae'n dirlun sy'n cael ei werthfawrogi gan gymdeithas. Mae'n drysor naturiol. Yr ydym yn credu y dylid cael gafael ar etifeddiaeth barhaus y warchodfa natur annwyl hon a'i rheoli ar gyfer y gymuned. Dylai Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru ei dynodi yn warchodfa natur genedlaethol gyda gweledigaeth hir dymor sy'n cynnwys menter gynhwysfawr i gysylltu'r gymuned gyfan â'i 'chfyfalaf naturiol': yn cael ei rhedeg gan y bobl ar gyfer y bobl.

Mae Gwarchodfa Natur Penrhos wedi'i hamgylchynu gan arfordir hanesyddol sydd wedi'i ddynodi yn ardal o harddwch naturiol eithriadol ger safle o ddiddordeb gwyddonol arbennig ac sy'n llunio'i thirlun eiconig. Mae Gorsedd y Penrhyn, uwchlaw llinell llwybr yr arfordir, wedi ei dynodi yn safle daearegol a geomorffaidd pwysig (UK RIGS) gan y Gymdeithas Geocadwraeth. Ynghyd â hyn mae'r cynefinoedd dŵr croyw yn cynnwys cynefinoedd gwelyau cyrs sydd wedi'u blaenoriaethu o dan gynllun gweithredu cynefinoedd y DU (UK hap). Wrth ddynodi'r warchodfa yn barc cenedlaethol byddwn yn gallu gwneud y gorau o fanteision economaidd 'cyfalaf naturiol' yr ynys. Harddwch digyffwrdd yr ynys yw sylfaen twristiaeth. Mae'n drysor ysbrydoledig yng nghanol y gymuned a chanddi dapestri cyfoethog o fywyd sy'n cael ei werthfawrogi gan y gymuned gyfan. Yn ôl y sôn, mae'n 'baradwys ddiwinyddol' ac yn rhan o allorlun Ynys Gybi. Yn wir, mae'r 100,000 o ymwelwyr sy'n dod yno bob blwyddyn yn cydnabod hyn. Fel dywedodd y bardd R S Thomas:

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Jenny Amelia Jones

Ysytirwyd am y tro cyntaf gan y Pwyllgor: 15 Mai 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 826 (casglodd deiseb cysylltiedig 1,100 o lofnodion)

RICHARD PARRY JONES, M.A.
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Swyddfa'r Sir
LLANGEFNI
Ynys Môn - Anglesey
LL77 7TW

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gofynnwch am - Please ask for: Carol Roberts

ffôn / tel (01248) 752102 ffacs / fax
(01248) 750839

E-Bost - E-mail: rpjed@ynysmon.gov.uk
Ein Cyf - Our Ref. RPJ/CR/GJ
Eich Cyf - Your Ref.

26 June 2012

Dear Mr Powell,

**P-04-390: DESIGNATE PENRHOS HOLYHEAD NATURE RESERVE
(COASTAL PATH) A NATIONAL RESERVE**

I refer to your recent correspondence in respect of the above and welcome the opportunity to submit the following observations on the request submitted by Jenny Amelia Jones to your Petitions Committee.

The Committee will be aware that it is the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) who has the legal power to designate National Nature Reserves (NNR) in the Principality and as I understand matters they have also received a request for the area to be designated as an NNR but have declined to do so as they do not recognise the area to be nationally important in terms fauna, flora or geographical features of special interest.

As far as this Authority is concerned I would point out that Officers have been involved with the applicant company in pre-application discussions for the past 12 months or so regarding development of the area. Whilst the scheme of development is continually evolving the proposal have been subject to community consultation and details can be found on the Internet. The intent is to create a quality tourism and leisure destination, provide a sustainable economic legacy for the Island assist the tourism industry, and in part provide temporary self-contained construction workers accommodation for the nuclear new build development at Wylfa. The latter element will be on the Cae Glas site as opposed to the Penrhos Site. Notwithstanding the foregoing the project will still secure access to the Penrhos Reserve and Coastal Path and mitigate any loss of public access by opening up the Cae Glas site which presently has no public access whatsoever. The Authority is eager to maximise community/planning benefits if the development proceeds.

The development in its totality will comprise of three sites which will be interrelated.

The development lies within the boundary of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the applicant is fully aware of the need to comply with the requirements of paragraphs 5.5.2 and 5.5.6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 4). The applicant is also aware that the two of the three sites are adjacent to the Anglesey Aluminium site on which a 299MW Biomass Station has been approved by DECC. Part of the Anglesey Aluminium site itself actually occupies a section of the AONB and is linked to Energy related Enterprise Zone status confirmed on the Island by the Minister, Edwina Hart.

The correspondence as submitted seems to imply that the Penrhos scheme will entail development of the whole site to the detriment of the character of the area as well as restrict public access. I would point out that the Penrhos site will still afford access to the public the development will in fact protect access to the area which Anglesey Aluminium annually spends approximately £250,000 on maintaining. Owing to the closure of the Works and the loss of hundred jobs the company can no longer afford the level of maintenance expenditure needed. However, the proposed development, if approved, will ensure continuity of access to the area by the applicant company (although the leisure and public areas will be clearly de-marked) as well as ensure improvements to the coastal footpath etc.

I would not wish to pre-judge any decision in respect of the planning application as discussions are on-going with the developer however the application will be considered on its individual merits having regard to the Development Plan as well as all relevant material considerations. Certainly if favourably consented the development would:

- (i) Assist the area's economic regeneration;
- (ii) Provide a leisure designation hub which will and assist the Island's Tourism industry;
- (iii) Provide a legacy for the Island's residents in safeguarding the Penrhos Coastal Park which without additional financial resources will face an uncertain future.

The Authority is fully aware of the concerns of many people in the area regarding the proposed development and its Officers, in dealing with the proposed application(s), will have due and diligent regard to the planning, social, environmental as well as economic issues concerned. The Countryside Council for Wales will be a formal consultees on the application and will respond in light of its statutory duties.

If I can provide you with any further information in this matter please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Parry Jones
Chief Executive

Tudalen 114

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-390
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06214/12

Williams Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Abigail.phillips@wales.gsi.gov.uk

September 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for the letter from the Petitions Committee dated 21 May regarding the petition submitted to the National Assembly for Wales urging the Welsh Government to designate Penrhos Coastal Park, Holyhead, as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and asking for my views on the petition. I apologise for the delayed response.

In Wales, designation of NNRs is a matter for the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW).

They are designated under either the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. NNRs demonstrate the very finest examples of our wildlife habitats and geological features. They are designated to conserve, and to allow people to study, flora, fauna or geological features of special interest. All of Wales's NNRs are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

The Penrhos Coastal Park is not a SSSI and does not have geology or habitats of national significance which are necessary in order to designate the site as a National Nature Reserve.

Ms Jones may wish to contact CCW to discuss this matter further. They can be contacted by post at CCW, Maes-y-Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW or by email at Enquiries@ccw.gov.uk

Best wishes,

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

P-04-399 Arferion lladd anifeiliaid

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Galwn ar y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i annog Llywodraeth Cymru i wahardd yr arfer o ladd anifeiliaid heb eu llonyddu i ddechrau.

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Royce Clifford

Ystyriwyd y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf: 19 Mehefin 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 400

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-399
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06448/12

William Powell AM

William.powell@wales.gov.uk

20 July 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 26 June informing me that a petition calling upon the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to ban the practise of slaughtering animals without pre-stunning them has collected 400 signatures. I am aware that Jane Hutt AM has also received your letter.

My officials are preparing consultation documents that will be seeking views on proposed legislation to implement EC Regulation 1099/2009 – Protection of Animals at Time of Killing which will be directly applicable in all Member States from 1 January 2013.

We are a tolerant society and respect religious freedom but must reconcile this with animal welfare. We will be consulting shortly and I will not be making a decision about non-stun slaughter in Wales until the consultation has closed and all responses have been reviewed.

Best wishes,

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

P-04-406 : Yn erbyn Safle yng Ngogledd Cymru yn y Cynllun Parthau Cadwraeth Morol

Geiriad y ddeiseb:

Rydym yn galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i BEIDIO â chynnwys unrhyw un o'r chwech man arfaethedig yng ngogledd Cymru mewn Parth Cadwraeth Morol. Rydym yn gwrthwynebu cynnwys Llanbedrog/Pwllheli, Aberdaron/Ynys Enlli, Porthdinllaen/Tudweiliog, Aberch/ Llanystumdwy, Ynys Seiriol/Biwmares a Gogledd Ddwyrain Afon Menai.

Byddai'r cais hwn yn cael effaith niweidiol nid yn unig ar ein diwydiant pysgota ond hefyd ar yr economi twristiaeth. Rydym yn dibynnu ar ein harfordir am ein bywoliaeth a'n mwynhad. Rydym yn gwrthwynebu yn y termau cryfaf y chwe man arfaethedig

Cyflwynwyd y ddeiseb gan: Claire Russell Griffiths

Ystyriwyd y ddeiseb am y tro cyntaf: 2 Gorffennaf 2012

Nifer y llofnodion: 6,501 (casglwyd mwy na 180 o lofnodion ar ddeiseb gysylltiedig ym mhapur newydd y *Caernarfon Herald*)

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-406
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/06570/12

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

28 July 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 9 July advising that the Petitions Committee has received a petition relating to the current consultation on Marine Conservation Zones. I note that the 6501 signatories are opposed to all of the potential site options in North Wales and that they are calling upon the Welsh Government not to designate any of these sites as Marine Conservation Zones.

I appreciate that people are worried about the effect that highly protected sites might have on local communities in North Wales – especially on fishing, leisure and tourism activities. I would therefore stress that no decisions have been made about final site locations, their size or boundaries.

The current first stage consultation is focused on gathering more information and views from people, especially in local coastal communities, about how they use the areas, how they might be affected by a highly protected designation and how any effects could be minimised.

I will consider carefully all responses received from the first phase of the consultation process before deciding on next steps, including views on the suitability of the approach itself and any alternative proposals.

I expect to publish an analysis of the consultation responses, alongside a statement of next steps, as soon as possible in the autumn.

Best wishes,

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Eitem 4.1



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-221
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07512/12

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

25 July 2012

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Bill

Thank you for your letter of 10 July on behalf of the Petitions Committee, enclosing a further petition from Cynon Valley 50 Plus Older People's Forum about the Minimum Standards for Basic Footcare.

I am grateful for the views expressed on Standard 6 however the Basic Footcare Minimum Standards have been agreed with the expert group as the minimum needed for safe practice. The All Wales NHS Podiatry Managers group has developed and agreed the programme of training to ensure consistency of standards and approach across Wales. If you of the Cynon Valley 50 Plus Older People's Forum would like to discuss this further a representative of the Podiatry managers group would be happy to do so. This can be arranged by contacting the Chair of the Group by e-mailing Lance.Reed@wales.nhs.uk or telephoning 01633 618057.

I have noted the helpful comment on Standard 10.

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Eitem 4.2

PET(4)-13-12 : Tuesday 2 October 2012
Paper to Note : P-04-401 : The Welsh Language in our Assembly

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref: P-04-401
Our ref: PO262/RB/NG

9 July 2012

Dear William

Petitions Committee

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June bringing to my attention the petition received by your Committee urging the Assembly Commission to accept the recommendation of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee that there should be a requirement in the Commission's National Assembly for Wales (Official Languages) Bill for the record of all Assembly proceedings to be in fully bilingual form.

The Commission has since responded to that recommendation by proposing an amendment to the Bill making it a statutory requirement that there should be a fully bilingual record of plenary (but not of committee or sub-committee) proceedings. That amendment was considered by the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee during the Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill which took place on 21 June. The minutes of the Committee's meeting may be viewed at

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=226&MIId=885&Ver=4> . A recording of proceedings can be watched on Senedd TV and the written record will shortly be available on the Assembly's website.

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Ffôn/Tel: 029 2089 8911
Epost/Email: private.office@wales.gov.uk



The Committee passed the Commission's amendment without dissent. An alternative amendment proposed by Suzy Davies AM, and which would have extended the duty to provide a fully bilingual record to committee and sub-committee meetings was withdrawn.

The Committee to whose recommendations the petition refers has therefore now, in the light of the arguments placed before it by the Member in Charge of the Bill, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, endorsed the Commission's approach. In setting out the Commission's position, Rhodri Glyn Thomas stressed that although a legal commitment to provide a fully bilingual record of committee and sub-committee meetings was not something which the Commission could support at present, the Commission was committed to keeping translation arrangements for committee and sub-committee meetings under review, particularly in the light of future developments in translation technology.

The Bill will now return to the full Assembly for Stage 3 and Final Stage consideration which are likely to take place in the in the first week of October.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary".

Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer